

## Israelis, Palestinians clash in Hebron

HEBRON (AFP) — Israeli settlers and Palestinian demonstrators clashed Saturday in Hebron after Molotov cocktails were thrown at the settlers' homes. Palestinian security sources said. About 50 Jews responded to the Molotov-cocktail attack by throwing stones at Palestinians near the line that separates the city, under Israeli military control, from the rest of the city, which is controlled by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). A Palestinian police officer was wounded and taken to a hospital, the security services said. PNA police dispersed the protesters and the Israeli military ordered the settlers to return home. The Israeli military withdrew from 80 per cent of Hebron in January as part of the Hebron accord between the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the PNA.

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# Jordan Times

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## Kuwait becomes first Gulf state to announce it will go to Doha

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait Sunday became the first Gulf Arab state to announce its participation in the Middle East economic conference in Doha but said it would not send a minister. "The state of Kuwait today announced its agreement to participating in the Fourth Middle East and North Africa economic conference" to which Israel is invited on Nov. 16-18, the official news agency KUNA said. Kuwait will be represented by the under-secretary of the finance ministry, KUNA said, quoting the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Abdul Aziz Dhukheil. The agency, which did not name the under-secretary, said the decision was taken at Sunday's cabinet meeting.

## Regent urges new MPs to dedicate their efforts to serving country, Arab nation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday congratulated the newly-elected members of the Lower House of Parliament urging them to dedicate their efforts and pool their potentials in serving the country and the Arab Nation.



Addressing the deputies at a lunch he hosted for them and for the Cabinet at the Royal Court, the Regent described the 13th Parliament as another link in the chain of democracy introduced into the country by the late King Abdullah, founder of the Kingdom.

The Regent conveyed to the deputies greeting and congratulations from His Majesty King Hussein and best wishes for their success in serving the nation.

"On this occasion I would like to extend to all of you my congratulations for your success in winning the confidence of the Jordanian people and I convey to you the King's greetings and congratulations on this occasion," said the Regent. "We are delighted over your success which came as a result of public consensus and free expression of opinion, and the result of free and fair elections, and I would like to emphasize that this confidence of our people makes it incumbent on you to exert intensive efforts and diligent work to serve the nation and the Jordanian citizens," the Regent noted.

He said: "The 13th Parliament which you represent confidence entrusted in you by the Jordanian voters requires from you to dedicate your efforts to the idea of comprehensiveness, on the right handling and dealing with information and to scrutinizing the facts and searching for the absolute truth away from offhand and improvised statements and away from playing with the feelings of the public. You have to adopt developed nations' parliamentary methods which depend on accurate information and scientific facts. These represent the first step on the right course and the most exemplary method to accomplish achievements for this country in the coming century," said the Regent.

Prince Hassan said: "Allow me on this occasion to say that the required strength and the right method which is worthy of our country lies in the strength of consensus, and in acting as one hand and a single heart in working for the future of the country within the framework of norms of the House's performance and in reaching out to the other people's views and the right reading of the future."

He said: "I have great hope that your abilities and qualifications will be translated into an exercise of humanitarian role in the coming stage of action, away from slogans and the media glamour because the coming stage is a stage of

(Continued on page 7)

## U.N. envoys prepare Iraq report for Security Council; Aziz off to U.S.

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein declared Sunday that his country had "to choose between sacrifice or slavery" and suggested that a confrontation might be inevitable.

Iraq has "been put in a position where it has to choose either to live honourably and with dignity or to face all the possibilities," President Hussein said in a statement on Iraqi television.

His comments came as Iraq barred U.N. weapon inspection teams that included Americans for a seventh day and sent its deputy prime minister to argue its case before U.N. Security Council members.

More ominously, the statement came a day before Iraq threatened to shoot down an American U-2 spy plane, which is scheduled to resume its flights over the country Monday. The Iraqi president suggested that a confrontation with the United States was likely.

President Saddam said that films of the U.N. inspection teams' activities in Iraq showed "how much material and psychological harm the people of Iraq have endured," according to the statement, which was carried by the British Broadcasting Corp.

"This path, however, has not led us to any result, and there is not the least hope that it will lead us to any result. Nobody, however, can say now that this new



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, receives Sunday evening Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz who arrived in Jordan en route to the United Nations. Prince Hassan stressed during the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh, the necessity of overcoming the current crises between Iraq and the United Nations in a way that would protect the sovereignty of Iraq and the integrity of its territories and pave the way towards implementing all relevant resolutions of the Security Council and lifting the embargo on the Iraqi people (photo by Boghos)

## Blair statement suggests Britain would join air strikes against Iraq

LONDON (AP) — Britain Sunday told President Clinton the world must stand firm against President Saddam Hussein after Iraq again turned back weapons inspection teams that included Americans.

The speedy Blair letter and its release to reporters appeared to signal Britain would back military strikes if Iraq carries out a threat to fire on American U-2 surveillance flights scheduled to resume Monday.

"I have no doubt that as in the past we must stand

absolutely firm and absolutely together," Prime Minister Tony Blair said in a letter to Mr. Clinton, released as the confrontation worsened between Iraq and the United Nations.

The United States has said that firing on its planes could prompt military retaliation. Britain could order royal air force fighter jets to take part with U.S. planes in any strike.

Soon after Iraq, for the seventh consecutive day, turned back U.N. teams try-

ing to check on whether President Saddam has weapons of mass destruction, Mr. Blair's downing street office also released in advance "a speech with more tough words for Mr. Hussein."

"He has made this fatal miscalculation before. For his sake, I hope he will not make it again," Mr. Blair, referring to the 1990 Gulf war when Britain was the America's prime ally, plans to say in a speech he is

(Continued on page 7)

## Arafat to launch awareness campaign on peace obstacles

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat is to launch a campaign to raise awareness in the Arab world and other countries about the difficulties blocking the Middle East peace process, his office said here.

"Arafat has decided to send the Palestinian negotiators who were present in Washington, to Cairo for talks with Egyptian leaders on ways to alert the Arab world and the international community to the difficulties

in the peace process," a statement said Saturday.

Other delegations would head for other Arab countries to "explain the Palestinian position and the content of the negotiations which took place in Washington," this week, said the text issued after a meeting of the Palestinian leadership.

Israelis and Palestinians held talks from Monday to Thursday under the aegis of the U.S., with no tangible result. The Palestinian

leader Mr. Arafat accused Israel on Saturday of having "no intention" of reviving the peace process which has been stalled since work began in March on a new Jewish district in east Jerusalem.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is due to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in London on Nov. 14 and President Arafat in Switzerland on November 15, in an attempt to get the peace talks back on the rails.

## Higher Court rules against Al Mithaq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Court of Justice ruled yesterday that weekly newspapers, whose publishers are registered as "companies with limited liabilities" have to meet the capital requirement of the amendments introduced in May this year to the 1993 Press and Publications Law, which is JD300,000 rather than the old JD15,000.

The ruling, which settles a few-months-old dispute over whether raising the paid capital rather than the registered applies to established weeklies, does not necessarily apply to newspaper publishers registered under different categories of companies.

Each case of the 13 newspapers which were suspended by a Council of Ministers decision in late September will be decided separately, the Jordan Times learned.

The Higher Court ruling came at the conclusion of a case heard by the court concerning Al Mithaq weekly, which is one of the 13 newspapers whose publication was suspended for not "meeting the new capital requirements."

Dar Al Mithaq company that publishes Al Mithaq weekly should initially raise its capital to JD150,000 as a prerequisite for republication. The ruling of the Higher Court, presided by Judge Farouq Kilani, stipulated that Dar Al Mithaq was registered as a company with limited liability and should therefore deposit 50 percent of the total capital stipulated by the Press and Publications Law (equivalent to JD 300,000) provided that the remaining sum be paid within two years.

and improper application of the law.

The court ruled that the documents provided by Dar Al Mithaq did not prove that the company fulfilled the requirements of the law.

It also ruled that the plaintiff's contention that the law violated the company's acquired rights was unfounded. It said that acquired rights apply only to disputes that occurred during the validity of the law in the past and that, if the dispute was still valid under the new law, it is subject to its provisions. It was not immediately known to the Jordan Times how many newspapers are registered as companies with Limited Liability.

The rulings in other similar cases filed against the government as well as the ruling in the case that contests the constitutionality of the provisional law are expected to be issued at the end of the month.

## Israeli politicians form group to press for retreat from Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A group of Israeli politicians from both the opposition and government announced the creation Sunday of a movement to press for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

"Too much blood has been spilled in Lebanon and we are here today to bring a halt to this," said Yossi Beilin, a member of parliament from the opposition Labour Party and former minister in charge of the peace process.

Mr. Beilin was joined at a press conference launching the "Movement For a Peaceful Withdrawal from Lebanon" by fellow Labour Party member Dedi Zucker of the leftist Meretz party and Tzvi Weinberger of the Russian-immigrant Israel B'Alia group which is a member of the governing coalition.

The group said its aim was to draw up and promote a plan for the orderly withdrawal of troops from the buffer zone Israel has held in south Lebanon since 1985 when it ended its three-year occupation of most of the country. Mr. Beilin said the plan would have to guarantee the security of northern Israel from attacks by Palestinian and Islamist guerrillas and protect the members of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army which helps Israel defend the buffer zone.



SANCTIONS-HIT CHILD: A poor Iraqi woman sits next to her starving child at a Baghdad hospital, Sunday. This hospital, like many others in Iraq, is undersupplied due to U.N.-imposed sanctions on the country. Impoverished by a trade embargo, Iraqis face the possibility of a military confrontation as the crisis with the U.N. over Iraq's disarmament continues (AFP photo)

## Close to 100 killed in Kurdish fighting

ANKARA (AFP) — Nearly 100 fighters have been killed in renewed clashes between northern Iraq's rival Kurdish factions, the Turkish Anadolu news agency reported Sunday.

The agency quoted Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Radio as saying its forces killed 67 fighters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and its allied Turkish-Kurd faction, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), in combat in northern Iraq. PUK Radio announced it killed 30 KDP fighters and captured 16 others during clashes near Sidekan, Northeast of Arbil, according to Anadolu.

The PUK also said in a statement overnight that Turkish forces "were directly engaged in combat against the PUK" and that "Turkish statements that the operations were limited to the PKK are completely false."

The PUK's representative in Ankara, Shazid Saib, confirmed to Agence France Presse the renewed fighting in northern Iraq without providing details. The KDP's representative could not be reached. KDP Radio said its forces killed the 67 enemy fighters in combats in 12 different zones which it retook

from the PUK and PKK. Serious fighting broke out in northern Iraq early Saturday, with the KDP announcing it had launched a major offensive against the PUK to regain positions it lost in October. According to a KDP statement, thousands of its fighters early Saturday attacked positions of the PUK and PKK on three axes along a 50-kilometre front stretching from Degala, north of Arbil, to Khalifan. PUK Radio accused Turkey of deploying 3,500 men backed by warplanes

(Continued on page 7)

## Batman still wears pyjamas every now and then

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Just to clear up any doubt, Adam West, the '60s cop, and co-writer who once played Batman, said he still wears his pyjamas every now and then. "I still wear them," he said. "I still wear them."

## Rift between queen and Cherie over dress-code

LONDON (AP) — In a last-minute move, the Queen of England has asked her daughter-in-law, Princess Diana, to wear a more formal dress for the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles. The Queen said she was "concerned" about the dress-code for the wedding, which is scheduled for Saturday.

## "Dear Tony" attends summit

LONDON (AP) — President Clinton's "Dear Tony" letter to Prime Minister Tony Blair, which was released Sunday, was part of a summit between the two leaders. The letter was part of a summit between the two leaders.

## Arab League calls renewal of U.N. sanctions against Libya regrettable

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League said Sunday it strongly regretted the renewal of U.N. sanctions against Libya for refusing to extradite to the U.S. or Britain suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. "It's really regrettable and sad that the sanctions are perpetuated against the Libyan people in spite of Libya's positive positions and flexibility," Arab League spokesman Talaat Hamed said. "The renewal confirms that the Security Council has a double standard on matters concerning Arab countries," he said.

## Iran urges Iraq to implement U.N. resolutions

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran urged Iraq Sunday to implement U.N. resolutions in order to "remove any pretext for further adventurism by the United States," the official news agency IRNA reported. Iran "opposes any U.S. military action against Iraq," Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs Mohammad Sadr said. "We urge Iraq to implement the resolutions of the U.N. in order to remove any pretext for further adventurism by the U.S.," he said. "Experience has shown that each time the U.S. wants to launch a military attack against this country, they prepare the ground on the public relations, political and international levels." (See related stories on pages 1 and 12)

## Scorsese prepares a movie biography of Dean Martin

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Martin Scorsese is preparing a movie biography of Dean Martin. The movie will focus on Martin's life and career.



## Israel claims major Christian archaeological find in Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli authorities announced Sunday the discovery in occupied Jerusalem of a large Byzantine church built over the spot where the Virgin Mary is said to have rested on her way to give birth to Jesus in Bethlehem.

The Israel antiquities authority said it hoped to turn the ruins of the Kathisma Church into a "major attraction" for Christian pilgrims expected to flock to the holy land for the 2000th anniversary of Christ's birth.

The large octagonal church is built around a holy stone, known as the seat, or Kathisma in Greek, where the pregnant Virgin Mary is said by Christian tradition to have rested while walking from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.

Surrounding the stone is an octagonal area with large corner pilasters and two outer rings, one of

which apparently served as a walkway for viewing the stone and a second made up of four chapels with colourful mosaic floors.

The entire church measures 43 metres by 54 metres.

"It is one of the earliest and largest major churches dedicated to Mary, Mother of Jesus," said archaeologist Rina Avner of the antiquities authority.

She said Christian sources indicate the church was originally built in the fifth century before being destroyed somewhere around the seventh century and rebuilt on the same model around 1200.

Decorated with elaborate marble and mosaic floors, it is the largest and one of the most sophisticated churches of its kind ever discovered in the holy land, she said.

The same octagonal plan served as a model for a smaller church on Mount

Gerizim near the northern West Bank city of Nablus and also for the Dome of the Rock mosque in east Jerusalem's Al Aqsa compound, she said.

Ms. Avner said archaeologists first suspected the presence of the church in 1992 when a nearby road was widened, joining Jerusalem to Bethlehem. No excavations were carried out at the time, apparently due to differences with the Greek Orthodox Church which owns the land and a nearby monastery.

New evidence of the church was uncovered earlier this year when Israel began construction of a controversial new Jewish neighbourhood on the nearby Arab area of Jabal Abu Ghneim.

Construction of the housing project on disputed land in occupied east Jerusalem sparked a deep crisis in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The church ruins lie in a "no-man's land" that ran between Israeli territory and formerly Jordanian-ruled east Jerusalem prior to its capture by Israel during the 1967 war.

Ms. Avner said construction crews came upon mosaics as they were laying a water pipe to a support site for the Jebel Abu Ghneim settlement and informed the antiquities department.

The subsequent excavation was financed by the housing ministry with the approval of the Greek Orthodox Church, she said.

While a spokesman for the antiquities authority said the government hoped to raise sufficient funds to develop the church into a major tourist attraction, Ms. Avner said the ruins were likely to be covered over with dirt for now due to a lack of immediate financing.



**FOOD WATCH:** Palestinian women on Sunday show schoolchildren how to identify out-of-date food products, mainly imported by or made in Israel, on display in the local Palestinian National Authority (PNA) office. Palestinian officials claim a number of food poison cases have recently been diagnosed in PNA-run hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which they blame on produce being sold past their expiration date (Reuters photo)

## Iran's Kharrazi begins talks with Saudi officials

RIYADH (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi began talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah in Riyadh Sunday after his arrival on a confidence-building tour of Gulf Arab states.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal greeted Mr. Kharrazi after he arrived in Riyadh from Jeddah, reporters said.

Mr. Kharrazi arrived in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea port city of Jeddah Saturday night from Syria, where he had held talks with President Hafez Al Assad and other officials.

He went into talks with Crown Prince Abdullah after his arrival in Riyadh and was

due to hold talks with Prince Saud later. Mr. Kharrazi was due to hold a news conference in Riyadh Monday before he leaves the kingdom.

Iran's ambassador in Riyadh said earlier Mr. Kharrazi was carrying two messages from President Mohammad Khatami to King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah.

The Iranian ambassador said Mr. Khatami's government was keen on fostering stronger ties with neighbouring Gulf Arab countries.

Non-Arab Iran has been trying to improve its ties with Arab countries since Mr. Khatami assumed office in August.

## Tehran wants better ties with Egypt

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Sunday called Egypt a "great Muslim country" and expressed a desire to improve ties with the North African state after nearly two decades of tense relations. "Egypt is a great Muslim country and important in the eyes of Iranian leaders," said Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Sadr, quoted by the official Iranian news agency (IRNA).

Mr. Sadr, who heads the Department on Arab and North African Affairs, said the deadlock in the Middle East peace process "has progressively brought closer the positions of Tehran and Cairo. 'Thanks to this rapprochement, we hope to see an improvement of relations in all areas,' he said.

But Mr. Sadr said there had been no change in Iran's opposition to the U.S.-sponsored peace process.

"We do not recognise the state of Israel and believe Palestine belongs to the Palestinians," he said, adding that the new relatively moderate President Mohammad Khatami shared the same views on Israel as the father of the 1979 Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who called for Israel's destruction.

## Islamic Jihad urges Arabs to defy U.S. on Iraq

GAZA (R) — A Palestinian Islamist leader accused the United States Sunday of terrorising the world in its standoff with Iraq over U.N. arms inspection and urged Arabs and Muslims to challenge Washington.

"This gangsterly American act doesn't only aim at hurting Iraq, but at terrorising the entire world and push everyone to give up to what America and Israel want," Sheikh Nafiz Azzam told Reuters.

"Arabs and Muslims are required to stand up against the American injustice and the American arrogance," he said.

He urged Palestinians to halt negotiations with Israel and boycott a U.S.-backed Middle East and North Africa economic conference next week in the Gulf state of Qatar attended by Israel.

Sheikh Azzam accused the United States of adopting a double standard by

enabling Israel to avoid respecting resolutions of the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly.

"In the same time Israel is challenging international public opinion; the United States is trying to gather the world against Iraq," said Sheikh Azzam, one of the senior leaders in Gaza of the movement devoted to Israel's destruction.

Islamic Jihad has carried out suicide bombings that have killed scores of

Israelis although it boasts a smaller following than the rival Hamas movement.

Palestinians backed Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war during which President Saddam Hussein linked his withdrawal from Kuwait to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Iraq fired scores of Scud missiles at Israel during the war (see related stories on pages 1 and 12).

## Qatar not to recall envoy to Egypt

DOHA (AP) — Qatar will not recall its ambassador to Egypt despite Egypt's decision to call home its envoy in Doha for consultations, a Qatari official said Sunday.

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammad Menissi left Qatar Friday ahead of a Middle East economic conference to be held later this month in Doha over Arab objections to Israel being invited to attend.

But Qatari Foreign Ministry Spokesman Fawaz Attiyah said his government does not plan to reciprocate for the Egyptian move. "We are not thinking about recalling our ambassador in Cairo," he said.

He said the Egyptian embassy had informed them on Thursday that the ambassador was going on an indefinite holiday. Egyptian diplomats said he was called home for consultations.

## Damascus 'surprised' by U.S. insistence on holding Doha conference

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Damascus on Monday said that Washington's insistence on holding this month's regional economic forum in Doha is "surprising and wrong."

The official daily Tishrin, commenting on the Nov. 16-18 forum,

wrote that "Washington's insistence on holding the Doha conference constitutes an error and causes surprise. Such an attitude weakens the credibility of the United States and its relations with the Arabs."

The official commentary comes as U.S. Assistant

Secretary of State Martin Indyk is making a tour of the region to build support among Arab nations for attending the annual Middle East and North African economic conference.

Several Arab states have said they will boycott the

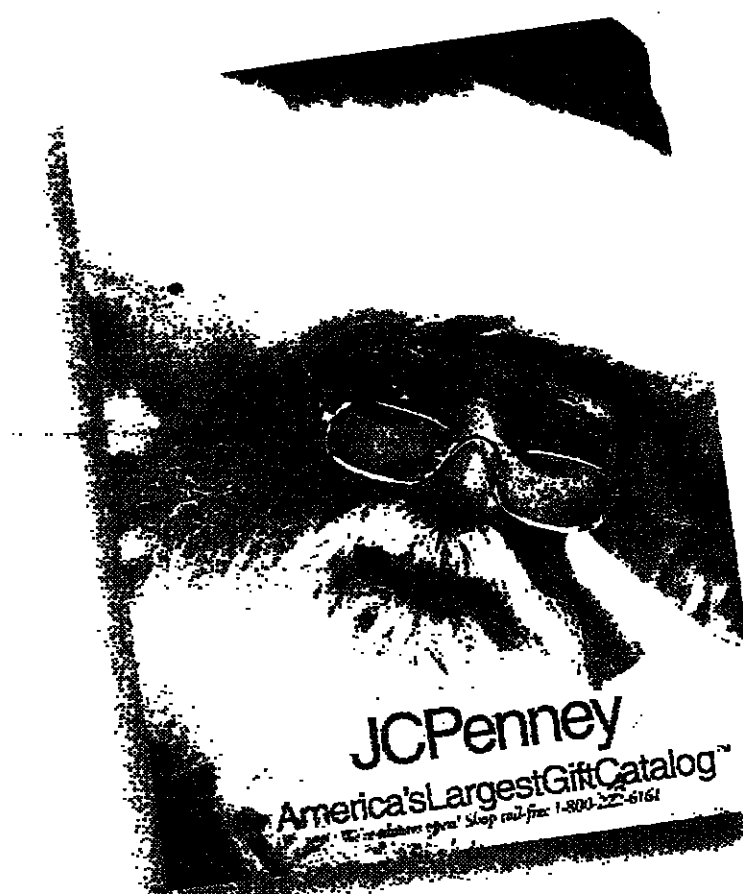
summit over the attendance of Israel unless the Israeli government takes steps to break deadlocks in the Middle East peace process.

Tishrin said that "the attitude of Washington is in conflict with its role as a co-sponsor of the peace

process and as an honest and impartial broker."

The annual regional economic conference brings together officials and businessmen from the Arab World and Israel and their main economic partners, notably the United States, Europe and Japan.

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15:30...Animal Show  
16:00...Oliver Twist  
16:30...Neighbours  
17:00...French Programmes  
19:00...News in French  
19:15...French programme  
19:30...News Headline  
19:35...Comedy — Murphy Brown  
20:00...The Health Show  
20:30...Babylon 5  
21:10...Highlander  
22:00...News in English  
22:30...Emergency Room  
23:15...Cosmos

### PRAYER TIMES

04:36...Fajr  
05:55...Sunrise/Duha  
11:19...Dhuhr  
14:18...Asr  
16:44...Maghreb  
18:03...Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623666

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.  
771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church  
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St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church  
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German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 688404

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.  
673691.

The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Scattered thunder showers are expected, skies partly cloudy, temperatures dropping slightly, and winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be

northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman...10/19

Aqaba...19/27

Desert...09/20

Jordan Valley...17/28

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 21, Aqaba 29 Humidity

readings: Amman 43 per cent.

Aqaba 38 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh...5519220

Dr. Rabi Sukkar...856457

Dr. Fadi Al Khatib...865456

Dr. Youssef Al Faqih...790104

Firas pharmacy...661912

Ferdows pharmacy...778336

Al Asena pharmacy...637055

Nairoukh pharmacy...623672

Al Salam pharmacy...636730

Yacoub pharmacy...644945

Shmeisani pharmacy...637660

Najib pharmacy...847632

IRBID:

Dr. Fawzi Abul Hajja...252970

Al Quds pharmacy...—

ZARQA:

Dr. Rabah Al Bourini...990312

Khalifeh pharmacy...985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre...637111

Civil Defence Department...661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue...630341

Rescue Police...192.621111, 637777

Fire Brigade...617101

Blood Bank...775121

Highway Police...843402

Traffic Police...896390

Public Security Dept...630321

Hotel Complaints...605800

Price Complaints...661176

Water & Sewerage Complaints...897467

Amman Municipality Complaints...787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)...121

Overseas Calls...010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs...623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs...661101

Jordan Television...773111

Radio Jordan...774111

Water Authority...680100

J. Electricity Authority...815615

Electric Power Co...636381

RF Flight Information...08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Luzmila...630195

Hussein Medical Centre...81381332

Khalidi Maternity...6428116

Akileh Maternity...6424112

Jabal Amman Maternity...642362

Malhas, J. Amman...636140

Palestine, Shmeisani...607071

Shmeisani Hospital...669131

University Hospital...845845

Al-Muasher Hospital...6672279

The Islamic, Abdali...66612637

Al-Ahli, Abdali...6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen...777101/3

Al-Bashir...775111/26

Army, Marka...891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital...602240/50

Amal Hospital...674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery...865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital

(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital...09986732

Al Hilana Modern Hospital

(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

(02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital

(02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital

(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital

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### FOR THE TRAVELLER

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### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07:15...Sanaa (RJ)

08:25...Damascus (RJ)

08:35...Jeddah (RJ)

09:45...New Delhi (RJ)

09:50...Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:05...Beirut (RJ)

16:20...Cairo (RJ)

16:45...New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:05...Kuwait (RJ)

18:35...Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

19:00...Bangkok (RJ)

21:45...Kuala Lumpur, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

23:15...Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights

04:15...London (BA)

09:15...Cairo (MS)

09:30...Al Arish (PF)

11:45...Khartoum (SD)

13:45...Bahrain (GF)

14:30...Doha (QR)

15:05...Vienna (OS)

16:00...Dubai (EK)

18:00...Istanbul (SD)

20:00...Tel Aviv (LY)

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## The 13th Parliament — the numbers



By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 80 deputies in the 13th Parliament were elected by 14.89 per cent of eligible voters, or less than 16 per cent of 1,838,223 registered voters, according to figures released by the Ministry of Interior.

With 293,451 votes, the new deputies collected 35.68 per cent of the total votes cast in Tuesday's polls. Compared to the official total population estimate (4,580,234), the new MPs won their seats thanks to the votes of only 6.4 per cent of Jordanians.

The new parliamentarians' representativeness, measured in terms of obtained votes to eligible and cast votes, is slightly lower than that of their predecessors in the 12th Parliament.

The winners in the 1993 elections received 16 per cent of eligible votes and around 40 per cent of cast votes. The total number of votes cast in this year's elections was 822,318, 46 per cent of the eligible voters.



The new deputies who received the greatest and least number of votes: Zarqa deputy Noman Gweiri (left, 10,853) and Ajloun deputy Ridha Haddad (885) (File photos)

(1,970,000), or 55.78 per cent of the 1,479,968 cardholders. More than 60 per cent of cast votes went to candidates who lost.

Five hundred and twenty-one would-be deputies contested this year's elections, 13 less than in 1993.

The newly-elected Karak deputies collectively obtained the highest ratio of votes to registered voters in the Kingdom's 21 electoral districts.

With 37,124 votes, the nine deputies won 37.55 per cent of registered votes in their constituency.

In the representativeness scale, Karak is followed by the newly-created, two-deputy constituency of Aqaba, where Mohammad Badri (2,755 votes) and incumbent Ziad Shweikh (2,356 votes) obtained 32.25 per cent of the 15,846 registered voters.



Mafraq came third, where incumbents Abdul Karim Dughmi and Mohammad Abu Oleim and 11th Parliament deputy Nawaf Khawaldeh collected 28.34 per cent of registered voters.

The three deputies in Amman's 2nd District obtained the lowest ratio of votes to registered voters.

Islamist Abdul Majeed Aqtash (3,617 votes) and centrists Mohammad Kouz (3,248 votes) and Mohammad Thweib (2,806 votes) collectively obtained only 8.1 per cent of the votes won by the new House representatives.

Out of the 48 former deputies contesting the polls, 26 were re-elected, constituting almost one-third of the new Parliament.

Among them, six were members of the 11th Parliament, 14 of the 12th, and six in both of the previous two Parliaments.

registered voters.

The seven independent Islamists in the 13th legislature — Abdullah Akaleh (Tafleh), Mohammad Azaideh (Madaba), Abdul Majeed Aqtash (Amman 2nd District), Abdul Razzaq Tubaisht (Irbid), Bakhit Mana'ya (Southern Bedouins), Mohammad Rafa'at (Balqa), and Walid Awajan (Ma'an) — obtained around three per cent of the total cast votes nationwide and 8.9 per cent of the votes cast in favour of the 80 winners.

A similar percentage applies to the leftists in the 13th legislature. Arab Land Party Secretary General Mohammad Ouran (Tafleh), independent Mansour Murad and Jordanian Unionist Democratic Party's Bassam Haddadin (Zarqa), Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party's Khalil Haddadin (Amman 3rd District), Ba'athist Nash'at Hamarneh (Madaba), Mohammad Bataineh (Irbid), Ayed Adhaleh, and Nazih Ammarin (Karak) collectively obtained only 8.1 per cent of the votes won by the new House representatives.

Out of the 48 former deputies contesting the polls, 26 were re-elected, constituting almost one-third of the new Parliament.

Among them, six were members of the 11th Parliament, 14 of the 12th, and six in both of the previous two Parliaments.

Independents Rashed Baraiech, Khalil Attiyeh, and Hamada Fara'neh won 9,278 votes out of 135,339 registered voters.

## Euro-Arab conference envoy urges EU to assume greater role in peace process

VALETTA (Petra) — Jordan has urged the European Union (E.U.) to step up its efforts and assume a major role in ensuring the success of the Middle East peace process.

At the Euro-Arab dialogue, which is being held in Malta, Jordanian representative Senator Thouqan Hindawi said Arabs want the E.U. to become a sponsor and partner in the peace process, in accordance with the principles laid down in the working papers of both the Arab and European parliamentary delegations taking part in the meeting.

"We appreciate what the

European parliamentarians are doing through political and diplomatic contacts with the various parties involved in the peace process. We also commend Europe's success in attaining tangible results and the appointment of E.U. envoy Miguel Moratinos to mediate," Mr. Hindawi said.

"However, we feel that all these contacts have not yet reached the level where they can be effective and capable of pressuring Israel into halting its aggressive practices against peace," he continued.

He warned that "should the Israeli intransigence

persist, dangers will not only be posed to the Arab World, but also to the Euro-Arab association programmes."

"Since the last Euro-Arab dialogue, which was held in Amman a year ago, the peace process has been deadlocked, particularly on the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks. The situation has further deteriorated due to Israel reneging on the accords signed by the previous Israeli government," according to Mr. Hindawi.

Israel has been insisting on returning to square one in the negotiations and refuses to comply with the

requirements of comprehensive peace based on the formula of exchanging land for peace, he said.

Israel is closing Palestinian lands, building more Jewish settlements on Arab-owned territory, refusing to redeploy its forces in the West Bank, and waging aggressive acts in southern Lebanon, he stated.

A total of 15 Arab countries and 16 E.U. member states are taking part in the dialogue, which is focusing mainly on the Middle East question and the sanctions imposed on Libya, Sudan, and Iraq, as well as economic cooperation.

## Majali thanks France for media assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday voiced Jordan's appreciation for France's continued assistance to the Kingdom in general and to the official media in particular.

During a meeting with the visiting director of French television Xavier Gouyou-Beauchamp, the prime minister pointed to France's technical aid and the exchange of media-related

information, which he said have all reflected positively on various fields including the tourism sector.

Mr. Gouyou-Beauchamp said he was impressed by the high standard of the media and its coverage of the general elections last week.

During the meeting, which was also attended by French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajole and Director of Jordan Televi-

sion Naser Judeh, the two sides reviewed cultural and media cooperation.

Also Sunday, Mr. Gouyou-Beauchamp met with Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi for a review of Jordanian-French cooperation in media-related fields.

Dr. Mutawi thanked France for its ongoing technical assistance to the Kingdom and the training of Jordanian personnel in

the use of computers to process the results of last week's general elections.

After the meeting, Mr. Gouyou-Beauchamp said French television is willing to train personnel, especially in television and radio work and in news editing and directing.

France is ready to send specialists to organise training courses for Jordan radio and television employees, he added.

## Germany to provide JD17.8 million loan to upgrade Amman water network

AMMAN (Petra) — Germany is scheduled to provide Jordan with a DM43 million (JD17.8 million) soft loan to finance the construction of a water network project within the Greater Amman region.

An agreement signed Sunday stipulates that the German Bank for Development and Reconstruction will process the loan, which will finance part of a project for replacing the worn-out and leaking water network in the capital.

The network will be laid in the following districts: Ras Al Ain, Nazzal, Ashrafieh, Quesmeih, Ain Ghazal, Al Qal'a, Naser, Taj, Nathif, Wihdat, Al Jofeh, and Al Akhdar, a total length of 500 kilometres.

The whole project is expected to cost JD24 million, of which, the German loan will cover 74 per cent.

Jordan will later sign another agreement with the German bank for the execution of the loan.



Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf-Huneidi and German Ambassador Peter Mende Sunday sign an agreement in which a German bank will provide a JD17.8 million loan to finance a water network for the capital (Petra photo)

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is conducting a comprehensive project for the replacement of the

entire water network in the Amman region, and the loan agreement, signed by Minister of Planning Rima

Khalaf-Huneidi and German ambassador Peter Mende, will finance the second phase of this project.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Officer honoured for solving 1986 murder

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Nasouh Muhieddin honoured officer Jamal Bdour for his efforts in closing the file on an unsolved murder from 1986. Mr. Bdour helped solve the murder of Murad Musa Basmawi, which took place in the Yajouz area.

### Department announces

October revenues total nearly JD6 million

AMMAN (Petra) — The revenues of the Land and Survey Department in October totalled JD5,755,902. The Amman Land and Survey Department earned the lion's share with about JD2.7 million.

### Accidents kill one, injure 30

AMMAN (J.T.) — Eighty-six accidents throughout the Kingdom were reported in the last 24 hours, resulting in one death and 30 injuries.

### U.N. to open journalism conference today

AMMAN (Petra) — The U.N. today is opening a one-day workshop for journalists entitled "The U.N. and the Jordanian Media: Scopes for Future Cooperation." Taking part will be journalists from Al Rai, Al Dustour, Al Aswaaq, Al Arab Al Yawm, the Jordan News Agency (Petra), Al Quds Press, and Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, as well as journalism students from the University of Jordan and the Institute of Diplomacy.

## Conference on educating dyslexic children opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special workshop on training educators to help dyslexic children was inaugurated last week by Head of Public Education Mahmoud Massad on behalf of Minister of Education Munther Masri.

Dyslexia is an impairment of reading ability in otherwise normal children. According to Rana Sha'ban, coordinator of the special needs programme at the Ahliyyah School for Girls (ASG), "dyslexia affects more than ten per cent of school children around the world."

As for Jordan, with the absence of exact figures, she estimated the figure to be somewhere between "two to three children out of every 20-30 school children."

"Participants in the work-

shop will be using an adapted version of a system of screening and helping schoolchildren with learning difficulties that was developed by Pamela Kuvilakul, an authority on learning difficulties," Ms. Sha'ban said.

Other versions of the same system have been used all around the world in places such as the U.S., Canada, Europe, and in Zimbabwe, she explained.

According to Miss Sha'ban, all areas reported success in integrating dyslexic children back into regular classes.

Ms. Sha'ban explained that a form of remedial work has been in place in Jordan for several years and applied by personnel from the Ministry of Education who received training at Princess Sarvath Commu-

nity College.

"However," she said, "it depended on the pull out system," in which the child is separated from other children and aided in isolation, she said.

"Mrs. Kuvilakul's system is different and is based on in-class help," Ms. Sha'ban explained.

There are 16 participants representing organisations including the Ministry of Education, A.S.G., National Orthodox School, Baccalaureate School, Al Manhal School, Princess Savarath Community College, Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Al Mowal Centre, and the Anglican School in Ramallah, West Bank.

"All participants will be awarded certificates upon completion of the five-day course," she concluded.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

\* "Le Retour de Martin Guerre" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh at 8:30 p.m.

### LECTURES

\* "The Cultural Dimensions of Human Rights" (in Arabic) by Dr. Suleiman Sweiss at the PEN Club in Zarqa at 7:00 p.m.

\* "The Pros and Cons of Jordan's Economic Reform Programme" (in Arabic) by Mr. Wasef Azar at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

\* "The Role of Political Parties in the U.S. Political System" (in Arabic) by Professor Ghada Hashem Talhuni at the American Center, Abdoun at 6:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Graphics and oil paintings by Mu'ayyad Al A'dhumi at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Nov. 13.

\* Bani Hamida fall exhibition "Encounter" (displaying rugs designed by Japanese textile designer Tomoko Iyoda) at Bani Hamida House, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 25 (Tel. 658696/7).

\* Exhibition of wicker accessories from Wadi Rayan, handicrafts and gift items at the Jordan Rivers Designs showroom (Tel. 613081), until Nov. 23.

\* Works by Sa'ud Ibrahim entitled "The Soul Rest" at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 553098), until Nov. 11.

\* Works by Bahraini artist Sheikh Rashid Al Khalifa at Darat Al-Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 15. Also displaying a new collection of works by contemporary Arab artists (Tel. 643251/2).

\* Paintings by Parice Cadennec at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 20.

## Conference ends with suggestions to develop information technology in Jordan

By Ahmed Naser  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With the advent of the 21st century, Jordan enters the Information Age lacking both funding and adequate technological know-how, said Mohammad Haj Hassan, the keynote speaker at the final session Sunday of the Informatics in Jordan conference.

"There are two angles that must be bridged together in informatics: the business angle and the research angle. Only then can the Information Technology (IT) industry thrive in Jordan," Dr. Haj Hassan, the president of Zarqa Private University, said at the conference, which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

The root of all financial problems associated with IT industry development lies in overcoming the technological impediments in developing nations, including Jordan, stressed Yousef Abu Hilal, an engineer with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Computer Technology, Training, and Industrial Studies Centre.

"Periodic maintenance and upgrading should take the place of 'on-the-spot' maintenance," Mr. Abu Hilal urged.

Other problems include the lack of spare parts, because in Jordan, "as in most developing nations, we consume technological equipment but do not produce it," the RSS engineer noted.

"But by far, the worst of our troubles are the lack of efficient administrators and technicians," he said.

Most maintenance crews are understaffed, thereby putting large amounts of pressure on crew members and denying them valuable time to attend training courses and increase their technical knowledge, Mr. Abu Hilal said.

Along the same lines, Mr. Abu Hilal called for the provision of multimedia-based training software and videotapes to "provide technicians working in the field with the luxury of formulating their own timetables regarding the enhancement of their abilities."

On other levels of gov-

ernment-related IT development, Farid Haddadin, from the National Information Centre (NIC), said the centre has established information reservoirs known as Focal Points for the Ministry of Labour, the Amman Chamber of Industry, and the Department of General Statistics.

The establishment of Focal Points for other government departments is on the way, Mr. Haddadin said, adding that the NIC aims at developing an Intranet, a modern-based network linking all public departments.

Departments across the Kingdom will reap logistical benefits from this decentralisation of information, Mr. Haddadin said.

According to a paper presented by Mr. Haddadin, the Intranet's infrastructure needs will be highlighted by a feasibility study conducted by the NIC in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, which will have the goal of finding a balance between economic development and its negative effects on society and the environment.

Eager to digitise Jordan Exports Development and

The NIC has also conducted a study, funded by the International Monetary Fund, with assistance from foreign specialists to form national IT strategies and policies, Mr. Haddadin explained.

Academics from government institutions gave another angle.

Jalal Otoum, from the Princess Sumaya University College for Technology (PSUCT), in his lecture said the future of the IT industry in Jordan lies in Object Oriented Programming using the program Java.

"Object Oriented Programming means that Java applications are reusable and portable. Java is platform-free, meaning that software can be programmed in Java under Windows 95, the Macintosh, or UNIX using the same version of Java."

Java applications programmed as discrete segments, or objects, automatically link together when grouped thereby saving precious programming time and effort, Dr. Otoum said.

Eager to digitise Jordan Exports Development and

Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) records, Abeer Faroun unveiled a projected management information system that will establish both a regional database and an on-line electronic library.

The regional database aims to accommodate the needs of corporation employees, whereas the on-line electronic library will supply investors seeking potential opportunities in Jordan ready hands-on information, he said.

RSS Engineer Daoud Daoud in his lecture said multidimensional modelled databases can display data in a large number of dimensions.

Mr. Daoud exhibited a three-dimensional database showing a motor company's sales, vehicle type, and colour, in addition to a list of distributors.

In his second exhibit, Mr. Daoud displayed the simplicity of adding a fourth dimension, sale by month, and said enhanced databasing techniques such as this "could easily replace relational-structured databases in current use by the market."



## Yeltsin flies to China to bury old rivalries

BEIJING (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin was due to arrive in China Sunday to bury the last vestiges of border hostility and revive stalled trade ties.

The Kremlin chief was scheduled to arrive at 1300 GMT, and Monday Mr. Yeltsin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin sign a declaration on final demarcation of the 4,300-km border.

Tuesday, Mr. Yeltsin is due to fly to the northeastern Chinese city of Harbin, once a key base for anti-Communist Russian "whites" in the 1920s and 1930s.

Just a few miles of disputed border remain, an annoying reminder for both sides of tensions that erupted into border clashes in the 1960s when Russia and China vied for dominance in the Communist world.

Good ties with China are essential for Russia as it carves out a role as an Asian power.

Although relations have been steadily improving since the late 1980s, bilateral trade has failed to keep pace.

An expected two-way trade volume this year of \$7 billion is regarded as miserably inadequate considering the size of the two giant neighbours. By contrast, China's trade with

Japan last year reached \$60 billion, and \$43 billion with the United States, according to Chinese figures.

Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov said in Beijing Sunday he would seek to kick-start trade by promoting big-ticket projects, including a plan to build a gas pipeline from Siberia to China and South Korea.

"So far we do not have a big enough project to become a kick-starter of practical cooperation," he told reporters. "The \$12-billion pipeline project may certainly become one."

Mr. Yeltsin told reporters Friday that Russia and China "have glorious traditions of friendship and common historical fates as well as the bitter lessons of disagreement and the invaluable experience of cooperation."

There were few visible signs of preparation for Mr. Yeltsin's three-day visit in Beijing and commentaries in local newspapers tended to put it in the context of Mr. Jiang's recent successful nine-day visit to the United States.

"We have wonderful and stable political relations and the fact that the president's arrival is no sensation is a good sign proving this," said Russian parlia-

mentarian Vladimir Lukin, who arrived early as part of Mr. Yeltsin's delegation.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Jiang have committed their countries to a "constructive cooperation aimed at strategic partnership in the 21st century," ruling out any close alliance similar to the one they had in the 1950s.

Mr. Jiang won agreement for a similar "strategic partnership" with U.S. President Bill Clinton in a summit in Washington at the end of last month.

Both China and Russia advocate a "multi-polar" world, jargon meaning no single power — the United States — should dominate.

Beijing views "strategic partnerships" as benign and non-threatening, replacing cold war era confrontation when the world was dominated by the United States, the former Soviet Union and China.

Mr. Yeltsin met Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto last weekend to break the ice in a difficult relationship.

"Russia is paying growing attention to developing ties with neighbours in the east," Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrebinsky said last week. "The Asian dimension to our politics must be fully equal to the European dimension."



Japanese wives of North Koreans walk past photographs upon their arrival from Pyongyang to meet their relatives at the Tokyo airport (AFP photo)

## N. Korean wives meet family, relax in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Eight of the 15 women married to North Koreans who have returned to Japan for the first time in decades spent Sunday meeting family members in Tokyo, a Japanese Red Cross official said.

"I'm so happy to meet my family again," Fuji television network quoted one of the women as saying.

The women, aged 55 to 84, arrived in Tokyo Saturday for a week-long reunion with their families. They have been barred by North Korea's secretive Communist regime from visiting Japan for nearly 40 years.

Some of the women spent their first full day after arriving in Japan strolling through Yoyogi Park in Tokyo.

The women will spend the night together in Tokyo Sunday, and from Monday they are planning to visit their birthplaces, meet long-lost relatives and pay respects at their ancestors' graves, the Red Cross official said.

An estimated 1,800 Japanese women moved with their spouses to North Korea between 1959 and 1982. Pyongyang had long refused to allow the women to visit Japan, and the issue had damaged relations between the two countries.

Most of the women, whose husbands are descendants of Koreans who moved or were brought to Japan before World War II, had not been heard from for years.

Japan, which ruled Korea as a colony from 1910 to 1945, established diplomatic relations with capitalist South Korea in 1965 but has yet to forge formal ties with the Communist north.

North Korea's decision in September to allow the women to visit was met by a Japanese offer to provide \$27 million worth of humanitarian aid to Pyongyang to stave off famine in the reclusive Communist state.

Tokyo had cited Pyongyang's refusal to allow the wives to visit Japan as one reason why it had refused to send food aid to ease the famine threatening millions of North Koreans.

The women's visit also comes ahead of a Nov. 11-14 visit to Pyongyang by a joint delegation from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Social Democratic Party and the Sakigake Party, partners in the Japanese government's loose coalition.

Japanese officials said Tokyo and Pyongyang were expected to restart the long-stalled process of normalising their relations.

Sharon Stimpson, one of the course trainers, said in a statement.

The course is organised and funded by the British government.

Human rights groups say poverty-stricken Sri Lanka, which relies on tourism as a main source of foreign exchange and employment, has become a popular destination for foreign paedophiles.

The government last year passed tough new laws aimed at curbing paedophilia and non-government organisations run awareness campaigns to combat the menace.

His native title bill will wind back some of the

More Muslims join protests against BBC film on Rushdie book

COLombo (AFP) — Muslim journalists joined protests against a Sri Lankan decision to allow the shooting here of a film based on a novel by controversial author Salman Rushdie, a spokesman said Sunday.

The Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum said they were against the move to allow the British Broadcasting Corp (BBC) to shoot the five-part television movie titled "Salim's Story" based on Rushdie's "Midnight's Children."

"We have written to the president saying that the shooting will bring some publicity and money to the country but it is also going to cause a lot of heartburn and misunderstanding," the forum's Secretary N. M. Ameen said.

## Australia has 'cautious optimism' on CO2 pact

TOKYO (R) — Australian Environment Minister Robert Hill expressed cautious optimism Sunday on the potential success of a high-profile conference on global warming next month, but added much work remained to be done.

"I think that 'cautious optimism' would be the best way to leave the meeting. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done, (but) there was quite a lot of good will and a lot of determination to achieve a good outcome at Kyoto despite the difficulties," Mr. Hill told reporters.

Ministers from 13 developed nations and the European Union met Saturday as part of a final push ahead of a high-profile Dec. 1-10 climate conference in Kyoto, Western Japan.

That is where nearly 170 signatories to a 1992 United Nations climate convention will seek to hammer out binding targets for developed nations to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the next century.

Sunday, representatives from eight developing nations joined the discussions, which were to end later in the day.

But neither China nor India, two of the world's five biggest emitters of greenhouse gases and key players from the developing world, took part. "It's a bit of a pity," Mr. Hill said.

Scientists say the build-up of carbon dioxide and other such gases in the atmosphere will alter the climate, causing more severe storms, droughts and floods and raising sea levels by melting part of the polar ice caps.

Negotiations to date have faltered on a host of problems including two key issues — how high should industrial nations set their own binding targets and how will poorer nations be brought into the global warming battle.

The European Union has proposed an ambitious goal for industrial nations of 15 per cent cuts from 1990 levels by 2010, but would allow its member states differing goals as long as the EU met its overall target.

Host country Japan has proposed a five per cent cut from 1990 levels as an average over the period from 2008 to 2012, but would let nations lower targets in certain cases and would not require targets to be fully binding.

The United States, faced with a costly campaign against binding targets by industry and a congress worried about the threat to jobs, has proposed developed countries merely stabilise their emissions at 1990 levels by 2010.

Australia, a major energy producer, said last month it could agree to compulsory emissions reductions if the

target was fair. It also said the nation could see 90,000 jobs at risk if it agreed to cut emissions to 1990 levels by a certain date.

Mr. Hill said Japanese media reports suggesting a major shift in America's stance on commitments by developing countries to cut their own emissions were probably "a little overstated."

The daily Yomiuri Shimbun said the United States had agreed that a commitment by developing countries to binding targets is not necessary at Kyoto, although Washington still wants the protocol to call for developing nations to take part in future emissions reduction efforts.

One U.S. source dubbed the media reports "inaccurate," while another source at the talks said there had been some move away from Washington's hardest line position.

"They were never going to get that provision (in the protocol)," the second source said. "It's a shift in form."

Developing nations have argued that industrialised nations should put their own houses in order before foisting targets on others. Many fear that industrialised economies want to derail their development with tough environmental standards that would strangle growth.

## Australian PM threatens election in row over native title laws

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian Prime Minister John Howard warned Sunday he is ready to call an election if a hostile senate blocks native title laws, which would clear the way for an early poll on the divisive issue of race.

He also denied charges that his bill is racist, saying he would make no further substantial changes to it and challenging the opposition to carry out its threat to block it in the senate where it holds a majority.

The threat comes as his 20-month-old government languishes in the polls behind the Labour opposition after prolonged criticism of his leadership and a string of gaffes, ministerial sackings and policy reversals.

Its relations with Aboriginals are at an all-time low after one indigenous leader described the government last week as "racist scum" and another resigned as chairman of the Aboriginal Reconciliation Council in protest.

But Mr. Howard dismissed criticism of his leadership Sunday saying: "At the end of the day the Australian people at the next election will decide whether I'm a good or bad leader."

His native title bill will wind back some of the

Aboriginal land rights which the High Court ruled they should have in its so-called Wik judgment which held that native title could co-exist with pastoral leases — leases granted to big agriculture businesses over vast areas of the country.

Mr. Howard agreed the legislation did circumscribe rights which the court decreed Aboriginals should have, but told Channel Nine's "Sunday" programme that parliament frequently change decisions of the high court.

"I put up a bill that is fair and balanced, in itself it is a compromise," he said.

"It does not meet all the demands of the pastoralists nor the demands of the Aboriginals. I've been attacked by both sides so it's probably struck the right balance. I'll put it up to the senate. I'll hope the senate passes it."

But he said he would not be intimidated by people calling him racist and indulging in what he described as a political stunt.

"What they hope to do is to generate an impression in the community that a fair piece of legislation is racist so that pressure is put on the government to change."

"Well I want to say to my opponents I'm not going to change the Wik legislation

except at the margins." If the senate refused to pass the bill now, he said he would present it again in three months and if it was rejected again he could call an election if he deemed that appropriate.

He said he did not want that but was prepared to do it if necessary. "I'm determined to get the legislation through."

Denying charges by Aboriginals and church leaders that the bill is racist, he asked: "How can a piece of legislation that will still allow Aboriginals to make claims on 79 per cent of the land mass of Australia subject to proper condition be regarded as racist?"

"I fought a pitched battle within my own party for four months because I was not prepared to agree to blanket extinguishment of native title."

Mr. Howard said instead of announcing after last December's Wik judgment that the government was going back to the original understanding that pastoral leases extinguished native title, he set out on a process of negotiation with the Aboriginal community.

"I have already changed the whole thing quite a bit to get the compromise which is now the present bill and it is up to the senate, in my view to pass it."

## Voting starts in colourful Italian by-election

ROME (R) — Voting started Sunday in the rural Tuscan region of Mugello for a bitterly fought senate by-election which has pitted a former star magistrate against a feisty rightist journalist.

In one of the roughest and strangest political contests seen in Italy for years, Antonio di Pietro, who became a folk hero for his anti-corruption crusade of the early 1990s, is standing for the ruling coalition of centre-left parties.

He is widely expected to emerge as the winner when the polls close at 10 p.m. (2100 GMT), but has had to see off a dogged campaign from Giuliano Ferrara — a newspaper editor and former minister in Silvio Berlusconi's centre-right 1994 government.

"I'm heading for an exciting defeat," the corpulent Ferrara said last week.

Mr. Ferrara has pursued Mr. di Pietro, whom he has branded a "peasant", for almost two months across the sleepy central Italian constituency in a vain effort to persuade his elusive rival to accept a head-to-head debate.

Mr. di Pietro has ducked out of all meetings and accuses Mr. Ferrara of orchestrating a smear cam-

paign against him. "It's not true that I don't want to meet Mr. Ferrara face to face. I'll meet him in court," the former prosecutor said last month.

To complicate matters, the government's parliamentary ally, the Communist Refoundation Party, has disowned Mr. di Pietro. It says that his political sympathies are firmly right-wing, and have put forward their own candidate, Alessandro Curzi.

But Mr. Curzi is not a member of the Communist Party, in fact he is a member of the largest government group, the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), which fully supports Mr. di Pietro. In a strange twist, Mr. Ferrara used to be a fervent Communist.

The ruling Olive Tree coalition, backed by Refoundation, won the Mugello seat with 66 per cent of the vote in the 1996 general election. A by-election was called when the sitting member died.

While few people expect the plain-speaking and hugely popular di Pietro to lose, all parties see the Mugello contest as a litmus test.

"If di Pietro gets one vote less than his predecessor, then I think that would be a

good result," Refoundation leader Fausto Bertinotti said Saturday.

Mr. di Pietro, a former member of the elite pool of "clean hands" magistrates, has been the scourge of Mr. Ferrara's close friend Berlusconi, leading probes into the business dealings of the media magnate-turned politician.

Mr. Ferrara charges that Mr. di Pietro himself succumbed to graft while he was a magistrate — an allegation he denies.

Mr. di Pietro left the magistrature in December 1994 for reasons that have never fully been explained, and immediately faced a barrage of probes by magistrates in the city of Brescia on suspicion of alleged irregularities while he was a prosecutor.

Most of the cases were shelved and Mr. di Pietro joined the government last year as public works minister. But he resigned after just six months when the Brescia magistrates opened a fresh investigation.

That case was also dropped and Mr. di Pietro got a further boost Saturday when the rightist Il Giornale daily, which is owned by the Berlusconi family, publicly withdrew accusations it had levelled against him.

## Clinton address at gay rights gala makes history

WASHINGTON (R) — Calling for reconciliation of the differences that divide Americans, Bill Clinton Saturday became the first sitting U.S. president to address a gay rights organisation.

But outside the downtown hotel where the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) held its \$250-a-person black-tie dinner fund raiser, protesters highlighted Mr. Clinton's checkered record on homosexual issues and registered the dismay of family values groups.

Inside, Elizabeth Birch, executive director of HRC — the largest U.S. gay rights organisation, with 200,000 members — and 1,500 guests welcomed the president with a lengthy standing ovation and punctuated his speech with applause.

"President Clinton's appearance here tonight is a powerful affirmation of the shared dream of equality for all Americans," Ms. Birch said.



President Bill Clinton addresses a fund-raising dinner for a gay rights group (Reuters photo)

Mr. Clinton told the audience his vision was of one America in which "we come together across all our lines of difference."

"We also know if we're ever going to build one America, you and those you represent have got to be a part of it," he said. "Being

gay, the last time I looked, had nothing to do with reading a balance book, fixing a broken bone or changing a spark plug."

To three AIDS activists who heckled him, Mr. Clinton responded: "I'd have been disappointed if you weren't here tonight. ... no one should be afraid to yell at the president."

Whatever Mr. Clinton said, his mere presence at the event was seen as validating the political power of the gay rights movement, once marginalised in U.S. society.

For Mr. Clinton, the appearance carried little or no political risk, since he is now in his second term as president and highly unlikely ever to run for office again.

Nevertheless, Mr. Clinton chose to avoid the controversy that greeted Vice President Al Gore's praise of comedian Ellen Degeneres for revealing her sexual orientation in a widely promot-

ed coming-out episode of her ABC television show.

Mr. Gore had lauded the lesbian actress — who received an award at the HRC dinner — for forcing Americans "to look at sexual orientation in a more open light." But Mr. Clinton made no mention of Ms. Degeneres or her situation comedy, "Ellen."

The president's attendance outraged conservative activists, who called it offensive, shocking and tragic.

"This is a sad day for the presidency," Rev. Louis Sheldon, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition, said. "If the American people are shocked by all of the same-sex smooching on television, wait until they see an American president kissing up to the wealthiest extremists of the amoral left."

The Family Research Council's Robert Knight called Mr. Clinton's action "an unfortunate misuse" of the presidency.

"To use the bully pulpit to glamourise behaviour that offends the values of millions of Americans ... is a disservice to the American people," he said.

Outside the hotel, the HRC event drew a wide range of criticism. Some picket signs read "Thank God for AIDS" and "Sodomy is no civil right."

The local chapter of Act Up, an AIDS activism group, demonstrated against Mr. Clinton's appearance, angry that he had not done more to fight the disease or promote gay rights.

During his 1992 election campaign, Mr. Clinton urged that homosexuals be allowed to serve openly in the military but later settled for the policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

He backs a proposed employment non-discrimination act banning employer bias based on sexual orientation but signed a law barring federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

## More Muslims join protests against BBC film on Rushdie book

COLombo (AFP) — Muslim journalists joined protests against a Sri Lankan decision to allow the shooting here of a film based on a novel by controversial author Salman Rushdie, a spokesman said Sunday.

The Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum said they were against the move to allow the British Broadcasting Corp (BBC) to shoot the five-part television movie titled "Salim's Story" based on Rushdie's "Midnight's Children."

"We have written to the president saying that the shooting will bring some publicity and money to the country but it is also going to cause a lot of heartburn and misunderstanding," the forum's Secretary N. M. Ameen said.

## Croc attacks man, gets eyes poked

DARWIN (R) — An Australian cattle rancher said he resorted to poking a crocodile in the eyes after it jumped out of an outback water hole and grabbed his arm while his friend slept nearby.

The friend eventually woke up and shot the 3.5 metre crocodile from point blank range in the underbelly, a nurse who attended to the man's wounds told local reporters.

The attack occurred as Joseph Wilson, 36, was fetching water. "Joe said the croc was trying to pull him into the water and he was on the bank pulling back with his legs wedged into the roots of trees in a sort of log of war," the nurse said.

"He said he stuck his finger in the croc's eye but that didn't seem to do anything and the croc went into a roll with his hand still in its mouth."

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## Peace in two halves

IT CAME as no surprise that the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Washington achieved nothing meaningful. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian chief negotiator Mahmoud Abbas have obviously failed as projected earlier to bridge the major gaps between the two sides. The reason is clear. It can be found in the fact that little has been achieved since the Likud-led government assumed power in Israel.

That country's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, continues to labour under the grip of a minority of extremists in his government; and even if he chose to be a bit more pragmatic or realistic in dealing with the Palestinians side, the make-up of his government would still preclude a workable agenda for peace based on Oslo accords. Yet the Arab side, including the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), must not lose sight of the fact that Israel is now a divided country, perhaps more so than any other time before.

Ever since the assassination of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the hands of Jewish extremists, Israelis have been split down in the middle over how to proceed in making and consolidating peace with the Arab World. It would be wrong therefore to speak of Israel or the Israelis as a monolith over this issue. It may be useful, though difficult, in this regard to see two Israels, one that is dominated by ultra-religious and ultra-nationalists and another that is willing to work for peace and historic reconciliation in this part of the world. While the Arabs must consider the possibility of severing contacts with the first Israel, it must not give up on the second, which is trying, but not succeeding yet, in reversing the dangerous programme of the Netanyahu regime.

The commemoration of the second anniversary of Rabin's assassination has confirmed that the Israeli body politic is indeed divided and that the gaps are growing rather than closing. The forces which killed him seem to be gaining the upper hand in murdering the peace process as well. Till the Israelis have another opportunity to elect a new government, the Arab parties may well have to sit tight, dealing only with that half of Israel which wants peace. It may not be a practical solution, but it is infinitely more workable than wasting valuable time and breath.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Arab Al Yawm's Saleh Qallab said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will be unaffected by a possible American strike on Iraqi positions as was clear from the results of previous strikes which failed to topple the Iraqi leader as Washington had hoped. The Iraqi leadership could be affected in a military confrontation between two armies on the ground, but definitely this leadership will not be changed through American rockets launched from bases thousands of miles away, said the writer. Qallab said the U.S. might again resort to attacking Iraqi economic installations, bridges, power plants and other targets but all that can only result in further sufferings for the Iraqi people. He said since Washington is in no position to send armies to the Arabian Peninsula to launch ground attacks on Iraq and since it has failed to mobilise Iraqi dissidents and the Kurds to topple the regime in Baghdad, it is more logical for the U.S. to try to reach a compromise with Saddam Hussein. According to Qallab, the U.S. should not appear as the enemy of the Iraqi people and bring about more sufferings to their women and children.

Al Ra'i's Fakhri Kaware said no woman succeeded in being elected to Parliament last week because Jordanian women were split in their allegiance and support for the women candidates. Jordanian women seem to have failed to be convinced of the need to elect women for several reasons despite the media campaigns launched by women's groups and the funds spent on these campaigns, he said. Singling out Emily Naffaa, who failed to win a parliamentary seat for the Third District of Amman, the writer said that Ms. Naffaa should have been supported by all the women in view of her long record of sacrifices and endeavours to help women attain equality with men and to acquire social justice and equal opportunities for women. Women in the Third District should have appreciated the services Ms. Naffaa had offered to Jordanian women in general but, he said, it seems that the women voters' minds were influenced by the idea that men are more groomed for the task in the Lower House of Parliament.

## Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

## The rules of competition in Asia

DESPITE THE recent problems in the Asian financial markets, the success of the so-called Asian Tigers has been nothing but a source of bewilderment to analysts and business people alike. Dr. Peter J. Williamson, a professor of international management at INSEAD, underscored in a study that appeared recently in the Harvard Business Review the uniqueness of business tactics in the Asian countries and the effectiveness of their strategies in securing competitive positions, both in their domestic and foreign markets.

There are eight general rules followed by Asian businesses which demonstrate how an aggressive economy should operate. The rules are:

1. Be the first mover: Being first, whether in market entry or in implementing a strategy, is more important than being correct. Early entry guarantees that business costs are lower and experience can be built early while mistakes, which may be many during a learning phase, can be corrected at an early stage and before they become more costly. Clearly this is a highly competitive strategy and definitely not for the weak-hearted.

2. Control the supply chain of your product: This strategy refers to the ability of the firm to reduce possible bottlenecks in the chain of supply. Weakening the control or bargaining positions of your suppliers by making them more dependent on you will allow you more freedom in setting your profit margin and enable one to avoid work stoppages due to supply delays. A company that invests enough in controlling raw materials, intermediate products, and distribution networks will be able to influence its competitor's market and share and cost structure.

3. Hold a dominant position in one or more industries: Many of the large Asian firms hold dominant positions in several industries; the Indonesian company Salim Group controls flour milling, cement and

the noodle market. Companies that hold dominant positions in several areas tend to be fortified against incursions from other firms. However, with the globalisation and the world effectively becoming smaller, particularly in the movement of capital, firms need to hold dominant positions in specialised product segments in many countries. Thus, dominance should be achieved in knowledge-intensive products and by utilising cost-effective production methods in a large international market.

4. Integrate vertically and expand horizontally: Asian firms tend to control all market operations relating to their products including the marketing networks which traditionally used to be particularly weak in this part of the world. Jordanian firms should follow suit because the marketing chain is probably one of the weakest links in the product cycle.

5. Support the host government's goals: Asian companies tend to provide financial and technical support to host governments, thereby creating goodwill and primacy over their Western competitors, especially

**As old family businesses give way to more complex and widely dispersed business empires, a new style of organisation is being born.**

with the public sectors of cash-strapped developing countries. At the domestic level, this type of action encourages public-private partnership — a must for success in

the home market between two entities that need never be rivals or at odds with each other.

6. Make sure that your company is organised "like a network of personal computers": As old family businesses give way to more complex and widely dispersed business empires, a new style of organisation is being born. Information connectivity among the various components of the enterprise, regardless of how far flung from each they are, is shared on continuous bases by strategic business units which have independent responsibilities and capabilities (i.e., behave as independent profit centres). By maintaining full multilateral communications, every part of the company has to continuously prove its excellence.

7. Stress commercialisation: Asian companies have been successful at bringing pioneer technologies into development and production at a very low cost. This is probably more important in the business supremacy game than creating the invention itself. Once standards are set, the firm must be able to develop a leading edge product at a lower cost than its competitors.

8. Always be on the ball when it comes to learning: To be able to win markets fast, the firm must be able also to quickly master new skills and understand new production or servicing technologies. One is never too old to learn, and that is why the learning capacities of companies must remain young and enhanced.

The Asian saga is still unfolding with many of the lessons that could be taught from it subject to further critique and review. However, the present title of Asian Tigers correctly depicts this fast moving and fiercely competitive group. Could lessons be learnt at the local level? Who knows! There is a Chinese proverb that says: "In time even grass becomes milk." Hopefully the lessons will be learnt quickly as in the case of the Asian competitors.

## Deadlier than the male

By Gwynne Dyer

"LADIES AND gentlemen. I stand before you tonight in my red chiffon evening gown, my face softly made up, my fair hair gently waved...the Iron Lady of the Western world."

— Margaret Thatcher, London, 1976

MARGARET THATCHER. Golda Meir, Tansu Ciller, even Indira Gandhi... Why are so many women who win power at the national level spectacularly hard and uncompromising? You can be banished from polite society these days for suggesting that the female is deadlier than the male, but in politics it is the plain truth.

Take Jenny Shipley, soon to become New Zealand's first woman prime minister. The coup in which she ousted Prime Minister Jim Bolger as leader of the ruling National Party was a classic act of political treachery: she collected signatures of support while Bolger was away in Scotland at the Commonwealth conference, and bluntly told him he was finished when he came home. She even looked like she enjoyed doing it.

"Jenny can tell you in wonderful warm tones how she's going to garrotte you and disembowel you and throw your intestines over her left shoulder," remarked Michael Laws, a member of parliament for the New Zealand First Party, the smaller partner in the governing coalition. "Frankly, if I wanted somebody to bring a human face to the Spanish Inquisition, I would choose Jenny."

Even after you've made the necessary allowances for jealousy and anti-female prejudice among her colleagues, there is still something flinty and dogmatic beyond the political norm in Jenny Shipley's behaviour. Deliberately so, one suspects.

When she was social welfare minister in an earlier National Party government in 1990, she cut benefits in New Zealand's once lavish welfare system by up to 25 per cent. She was burned in effigy in the streets for that, but gloried in the notoriety. She went on to become health minister in 1993, and immediately did the same slash-and-burn job there.

Most recently, as minister of transport and women's affairs, she even tried to force farmers to pay for the upkeep of rural roads themselves through a toll system. She was not just "the toughest man in the Cabinet," as someone memorably observed about Margaret Thatcher. Like Thatcher, she positively revelled in that role, and deliberately adopted it as her public image.

It worked brilliantly. As soon as Jim Bolger has filled a couple of outstanding commitments, Jenny Shipley will replace him as party leader and prime minister. She will be the first woman ever to govern the country that, a century ago, was the first to give women the vote. And she is so tough that she eats babies for breakfast.

Why do so many of the women who succeed in winning and wielding power at the national level play the "hard man"? The total numbers are too small to

make good statistics, but they certainly suggest that politics at the more exalted levels positively encourages the rise of women whose public persona has all the warmth and charm of a contract killer.

Even at the very top, many women politicians do not present this image, but a startlingly large number do. And since these are intelligent people who are professionals in the image game, one presumes that they see some advantage in doing so.

This is not to suggest that people like Margaret Thatcher and Jenny Shipley, beneath their tough exteriors, are really sweet and simple women. It is just to give them credit for being intelligent human beings, masters of their craft, who would hide their toughness if it paid politically to do so. Plainly, it does not.

But what possible advantage could there be in being seen as a tough, unfeeling, ruthless pit-bull of a politician?

**... if you are a senior female politician with ambitions to climb to the very top of the greasy pole, then toughness may be an essential part of your credibility, proof that you are not just a 'typical' woman, all woolly warmth and sympathy.**

Very little, if you happen to be a male politician in a country at peace. But if you are a senior female politician with ambitions to climb to the very top of the greasy pole, then toughness may be an essential part of your credibility, proof that you are not just a 'typical' woman, all woolly warmth and sympathy.

There are many exceptions to this rule, of course. Over half the women who have made it

to the rank of national leader in democratic countries did not do so entirely under their own steam. They were either compromise candidates who were briefly put into office to take the blame for a worn-out government — Canada's former prime minister Kim Campbell and France's Edith Cresson both fit that paradigm — or else their power is essentially hereditary.

At first glance, for example, it seems odd that all four major countries of South Asia have elected one or several women leaders, while none of the four biggest industrialised countries have. Are Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Sri Lankans that much more sophisticated than Americans, Russians, Japanese and Germans?

Not at all. The Indian subcontinent has a unique record in terms of electing women leaders precisely because it consists of countries that have spent 50 years trying to be democratic (with varying success) without the normal infrastructure of a developed economy and all-pervasive mass media. So the voters sought and found families, political dynasties, to give their loyalties to — and members of those dynasties could get elected regardless of sex.

In the biggest industrialised democracies, by contrast, it is virtually impossible for a woman to get elected president or prime minister. (Americans might manage it one of these days, but I wouldn't hold my breath.)

And in middle and smaller industrialised countries, many of which have had one woman leader by now, the price of power is still very often that the woman prove herself to be more "masculine" than her male rivals. While the Tony Blairs and Bill Clintons can be as caring and vulnerable as they like,

## Human Rights File

## Minorities: according equal treatment

By Waleed M. Sadi

WE HAVE been allocating some ethnic and religious minorities quota seats in Parliament but not all. Jordan has more than Christian, Circassian and Chechen minorities who have not been accorded an "equal" treatment with the three visible minorities in our midst. We have, for example, sizeable Kurdish and Armenian communities who have been denied equal treatment with the three major minority groups. If we chose this tortuous path of providing minorities with parliamentary representations, why confine this endeavour to only three groups of people. After all we have only 25,000 Circassians and even a lesser number of Chechens. Why not then give the rest of the minorities a similar treatment under the law.

Yet this is the crux of the issue. For starters, I believe that the equality clause in our Constitution precludes making distinctions between citizens on the basis of ethnic or religious grounds. Our international treaty obligations which are binding on us also forbid according minorities quota seats in parliaments. The international jurisprudence on this issue is clear. Only when the size of a given ethnic minority is so large as to warrant granting it self-rule, can such a minority elect its own representatives to its own parliament. In such a situation, only the members of the minority group themselves elect their representatives and not the members of the majority population.

Accordingly the manner we conduct national elections is questionable on four basic grounds: 1) Not all minorities are enjoying equal treatment. 2) Voters from outside the minority groups elect representatives of minorities. 3) Religious minorities do not enjoy a quota seat criterion under international norms. 4) Small ethnic minority groups are not entitled to a seat quota under our existing system of elections.

But this is not all. If we chose to disregard the Constitutional and international constraints and persist in following the ongoing path of minority quota system, it would become necessary to adopt a special legislation to define and identify who is a Circassian and Chechen for example. We would not have trouble identifying members of the Christian faith but we certainly lack coherent guidelines to define who is a Circassian, for example. Admittedly we have what I may call folkloric guidelines on who is an Arab Jordanian and who is not but these criteria are by no means sufficiently clear for legal purposes. This leads me to the conclusion that this new 13th Parliament must not only review the existing controversies connected with minority quota seats when it considers amendments to the current election law, but must also articulate a special law on who is and who is not a Circassian. The absurdity of any such legislative exercise, though, is clear enough. The minute we legislate into law such classification of Jordanians, we would end up adding to national identity cards not only the gender of the people but also their faith and ethnic origin. I doubt that we want to go to that extent in subdividing citizens into separate groups.

Identifying members of ethnic groups is nevertheless no easy exercise. The task of legislating on the subject becomes necessary when there are legal implications as indeed is the case with minority quota seat system for election purposes. In Canada, for example, where native Indians have a certain degree of autonomy, the Canadian jurisprudence on the subject of who is and who is not a native Indian was not developed overnight. There was a time when a native Indian woman would lose her status if she married a non-native Indian Canadian. A male native Indian, on the other hand, did not lose his identity when marrying a non-Indian Canadian. Due to the intervention of the U.N. Human Rights Committee which monitors the application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), this discrimination against women was ruled illegal. Ottawa amended its law accordingly in due course in deference to the international jurisprudence on the subject.

Accordingly we must not assume that the determination of who is and who is not a member of a minority is all that simple. Above all there is no escape from the requirement for a special law on the subject. Of course we can avoid all this legal mess and the myriad of controversies if we simply eliminate altogether minority seat quotas from our election law. Otherwise we risk flouting international norms as well as our own organic law.

## LETTERS

## So ashamed!

To the Editor:

I AM a 13-year-old student of the Amman Baptist School and also a student of the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and a member of its orchestra.

I recently had the honour to participate in two concerts with the visiting Hanover Boys Choir, one on Thursday, October 30, which was very successful, and on the morning of Nov. 1, which was a performance for schools. The schools who attended the morning performance were all private schools in Amman, but to my great shame behaved so badly that for the first time in my life I was ashamed to be a Jordanian. The school students screamed and whistled as if they were in a football match and talked and laughed throughout the whole performance. I don't know what kind of impression these visitors would take home with them of their visit to Amman. I wonder how we Jordanians would feel if people laughed at our folk dancing troupe or Arab music ensemble when they travel to European countries.

The choir of 62 boys was accompanied by one director and two assistants, and during the rehearsals we had with them before the concerts, the director never had to repeat his instructions twice, maybe we should take a lesson from them!

I fear that there will not be much more "close and fruitful" cooperation between Jordan and other countries, at least on a cultural level, if parents and teachers do not help improve the manners of their children and students.

Beisan Elias  
Ammansays the  
al inhStay  
Take Fastlink



road," said Mr. Robertson.

Beisan Elias  
Amman

# Stay linked while in Qatar



**Fastlink**  
Jordan Mobile Telephone Centre

Beisan Films



## JEDCO to set up marketing arm for Jordanian industries this month

By Suha Ma'ayeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The "Jordan Trade House" is the name of the new company that the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) will be launching with other private sector businesses during the first quarter of 1998, JEDCO Promotion Director Bashar Khasawneh told the Jordan Times Sunday.

Mr. Khasawneh said the company will be registered this month at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply with a capital of JD1 million spread among a number of companies, industries and exporting entities.

The JEDCO official explained that the Jordan Trade House will specialise in marketing various Jordanian products and services as well as promoting tourism for the Kingdom.

He added that the idea of establishing the Jordan Trade House has been triggered by the need for a spe-

cialised export organisation for the Jordanian industrial sector. According to Mr. Khasawneh, many industrial companies have shown interest in becoming shareholders in the Jordan Trade House because such an entity will lift their burden for marketing and enable them to concentrate more on quality issues.

The starting capital was completely covered by the shareholders, mainly consisting of a number of companies, industries and exporting entities, he said.

The Jordan Trade House will not be a substitute for the trade centres, but it will help support and complement them, said Mr. Khasawneh.

He elaborated that the government's role will be lessened in promoting Jordanian products, although the government will still have its role in promoting Jordanian exports through embassies and other export-oriented organisations.

Asked about JEDCO's recent activities, Mr. Khasawneh said an office was

established in Ramallah last month in addition to another office set up earlier in Gaza.

Mr. Khasawneh added that a new office will start operating in Brussels soon.

A complete evaluation was conducted with regard to the feasibility of some centres and, as a result, several offices seen inefficient and costly were closed down.

Asked when the exporters directory will be published, he said that this project has been delayed because of ongoing changes in the telephone numbers.

He indicated that JEDCO will be providing government and foreign institutions as well as interested parties with information about Jordanian industries on a computer disc.

He also revealed that JEDCO has carried out a multimedia programme that highlights the services and activities of the corporation in addition to a general review of the Jordanian economy.

## Jordan wins \$1.7m contracts to export products to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.N. Security Council's Sanctions Committee has approved requests by a number of Jordanian firms to export goods to Iraq worth \$1,739,270 under the oil-for-food deal, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade sources.

With this approval, Jordanian firms have secured contracts for an overall value of \$107 million, according to the sources which noted that the latest approval allows Jordan to

export more human and veterinary medicines, table salt and galvanised metal.

The sources pointed out that the approvals came as a result of intensive efforts exerted by the ministry through the concerned authorities and the Jordanian U.N. mission.

They said the ministry was on permanent contact with Jordanian companies to notify them of any approvals and to answer queries pertaining to their applications.

Last September, Iraq concluded contracts with 35 Jordanian industrial institutions to purchase goods worth more than \$83 million within the framework of the U.N. Iraq oil-for-food deal which allows Baghdad to sell up to \$2 billion every six months to buy food and medicine.

Under the oil-for-food deal, Jordanian industrial institutions can sell up to \$400 million worth of food and medicine to the Iraqi markets.

## REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.7080	0.5926	1.3929	124.35	1.4085	1675.50	1.9245	5.7143	
DE Mark	0.5835		0.3466	6.8155	72.80	0.8243	980.80	1.1268	3.3454
GB Sterling	1.6875	2.8860		2.3588	209.52	2.3768	2828.08	3.2478	9.8432
CH Franc	0.7179	122.53	0.4248		89.25	1.0105	1202.31	138.02	4.0896
JP Yen	0.0080	1.3724	0.4759	1.1192		1.1318	13.47	154.64	4.5918
CA Dollar	0.7180	1.2118	0.4202	0.8862	1.13		1189.00	1.3854	4.0543
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0187	0.3532	0.0831	1349.35	0.8401		11.48	3.4083
NL Guilder	0.5186	88.73	0.3077	72.38	64.58	0.7317	670.80		2.9688
FR Franc	0.1750	0.2388	0.1036	24.3663	21.74	0.2464	33.67	33.6700	

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar		0.7085	3.7504	0.3770	3.6405	0.3031	3.6727	1525.50	3.3900
Jordan Dinar	1.4114		5.2934	0.5321	5.1383	0.4277	5.1838	2153.14	4.7848
Saudi Riyal	0.2686	0.1889		0.1005	0.97	0.0808	0.98	406.76	0.9039
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8794	9.9485		9.66	0.8039	9.74	4048.63	8.9925
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1946	1.0302	1.0302		0.0832	1.01	419.04	0.9312
Kuwait Dinar	3.2998	2.3379	12.3755	1.2440	12.01		12.12	5033.82	0.9312
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1929	1.0212	0.1026	0.9912	0.0825		415.36	0.9230
Lebanese/1000	0.68	0.4844	2.4585	0.2471	2.3864	0.1987	2.4075	2674.18	2.2222
Egyptian	0.2250	0.2090	1.1063	0.1112	1.0739	0.0894	1.0834	450.00	

Main Equity Indices									
Source	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls		
New York	DOW JONES	7581.32	-101.92	-1.33	7678.57	7487.76	7583.24		
New York	S&P 500	927.51	-10.52	-1.12	938.03	915.39	938.03		
London	FT-SE 100	4764.3	-99.5	-2.05	4850.8	4699.8	4853.8		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	15836.36	-697.51	-4.22	16464.2	15823.6	16533.9		
Paris	CAC 40	2693.71	-82.11	-2.95	2733.41	2674.18	2781.82		
Frankfurt	DAX	3699.89	-124.02	-3.24	3754.91	3691.04	3823.91		

Energy									
Commodity	Last	Delivery							
Coffee (c/lb)	145.67	Spot							
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1641	Spot							
Sugar (\$/ton)	303.8	Spot							
Wheat (\$/ton)	140	Spot							
Soya (c/lb)	25.78	Spot							
Tee (c/lb)	158	Spot							
Barley (\$/ton)	0	Spot							
Rice (\$/ton)	400	Spot							

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell							
US Dollar	0.708	0.710							
GB Sterling	1.1942	1.2002							
DE Mark	0.4141	0.4162							
CH Franc	0.5068	0.5093							
FR Franc	0.1238	0.1244							
JP Yen	0.5688	0.5716							
NL Guilder	0.3875	0.3893							
IT Lira	0.422	0.4241							

Source: Central Bank of Jordan

## Saudis in drive to end OPEC quota cheating

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's call for OPEC to raise its production ceiling is part of a push by the oil giant to quash persistent quota violations by some of the group's other members, according to oil experts here.

"I believe the Saudis are calling for an increase in OPEC's ceiling in an attempt to stop quota violations by some members," a Gulf oil analyst told AFP.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali Al Nuaimi said last week that the 11-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should raise its output ceiling by between one million and two million barrels per day (bpd) when its oil ministers meet in Jakarta on Nov. 26 to set a ceiling for the first half of 1998.

He called the present ceiling of a little over 25 million bpd "unrealistic" and said an increase was warranted by growing global demand next year.

OPEC already pumps more than 2.5 million bpd

above its nominal ceiling, but most of the excess supplies are reportedly due to over-quota production by Venezuela and Nigeria.

Experts say Saudi Arabia has been complying with its OPEC-decreed share.

"It is obvious the Saudis can no longer afford seeing some members which are violating their quotas reaping higher income," an oil analyst said.

"What they aim for now is to share any rise in the output instead of (it) being monopolised by some violators," he said.

But how easily Saudi Arabia, the world's dominant oil power, can enforce its will upon violators is something experts debate.

Riyadh does not have as much clout as before given its need for cash to meet growing domestic development needs and to recover from the stunning financial blow it took during the Gulf crisis.

"The Saudis are going to throw their weight behind (increasing OPEC's produc-

tion ceiling), but I doubt their position is still as powerful as before," an oil industry analyst said.

"They no longer can threaten to dump the market because they will be hurt most by any drop in oil prices," he said.

Saudi Arabia sits atop a quarter of the global recoverable crude resources, with nearly 2.5 million bpd in untapped surplus capacity.

The increase proposed by the Saudi oil minister means OPEC's production could approach 30 million bpd, but analysts ruled out such a possibility.

"Nuaimi means the increase above the nominal ceiling not the actual production. He will naturally push for a respect of quotas when the organisation discusses his proposal," the oil analyst said.

Not all experts agree that Saudi Arabia's interest in raising OPEC's production ceiling is mostly motivated by the desire to punish violators and increase its own oil revenues.

## THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Quarrel
- Acting awkward
- Witty remark
- Cat sound
- Raccoon's cousin
- Finished
- Sandusky's lake
- Small sweet pies
- Add to the workplace
- Dover's state
- Eucalyptus eaters
- Ocean motion
- Fein
- Performed
- In Australia
- the rub
- (Hamlet)
- Competes
- GI hangout
- Beats soundly
- Bears, Bulls, etc.
- Palo — CA
- Current unit
- Old sailor
- Cinnamon and nutmeg
- Athletes
- Take — (relax)
- Exclamations
- Footnote abbr.
- Picture taker
- Defacing
- Landed
- Ceases to sleep
- Old Greek
- One: pref.
- Get up
- Repeat
- Equal
- Strisand film
- Nobleman

by Virginia B. Hopewell

9 Condition of danger

10 — Sebastian Bach

11 Diabolical

12 Antidotes

13 — bias

21 Extensive

23 Disagreeable necessity

25 Do the backstroke

26 Cartographer's book

27 Athletic VIP

28 Beat

30 Egg-shaped

31 — et decorum est

32 — Park, Colo.

33 Perch

35 Store for future use

40 Debra Under the —

41 Landing field

43 Play the lead

45 Twosome

47 Speaker

48 Most pleasant

52 Swiss city

53 Vacation spot

54 — vera

55 Excavation

58 Under the — (st)

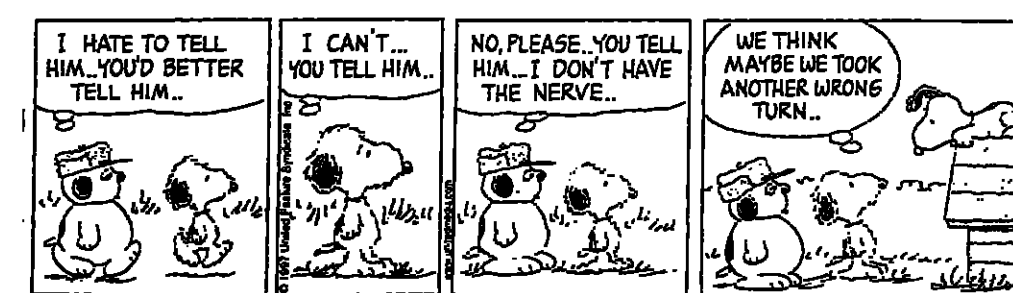
57 Thought

58 Approach

59 Exasperate

62 Have being

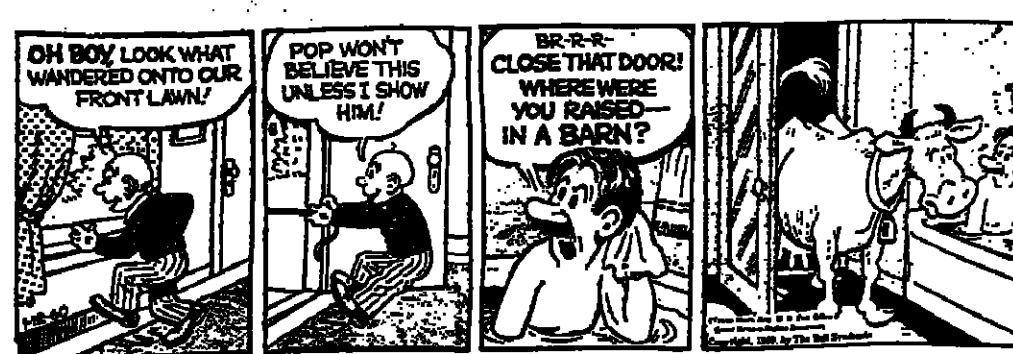
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1997  
By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21-April 19) — Don't you hate it when somebody tries to lay a guilt trip on you? That might happen today. You're under too much pressure. If you don't have enough money, go to a friend. You have one who's in a generous mood this afternoon. It's also a good time to sell old toys.

**TAURUS:** (April 20-May 20) — Partners and friends will be there for you, just when you don't need them. Isn't that always how it goes? They're ready to volunteer, and you have everything pretty much handled. There's only one thing to do. Come up with a new project, and quickly.

**GEMINI:** (May 21-June 21) — You're very intelligent, but if you do all the talking today, you're also foolish. Chances are you don't understand everything that's going on. If you watch and listen, you'll have a better chance of staying up with the action. Keep most of your thoughts to yourself.

**CANCER:** (June 22-July 22) — If you want to start new projects, get them underway first thing this morning. Tonight, an older person will have a long list of things for you to do. This doesn't have to ruin your evening. By then, you'll have had enough time to get your own schemes firmly underway.

**LEO:** (July 23-August 22) — If you go shopping, be careful not to spend the money on toys and forget the groceries. If temptations are strong, set a new goal. How about a trip to South America? If you start saving now, you can make it happen. Doesn't that make saving more fun?

**VIRGO:** (August 23-September 22) — People are starting to notice that they're more effective when you help them get organized. You'll be getting a lot of positive attention all week long. Relax and enjoy it! It's also a good time for romance, if you don't get too critical and hurt your true love's feelings.

**LIBRA:** (September 23-October 23) — You like to base your decisions on reason. That isn't going to work today. The most successful people will be slaves to their emotions. It's OK to use yours, if it benefits everyone in the long run. If you have to cajole or manipulate to make it happen, you hereby have permission.

**SCORPIO:** (October 24-November 21) — This morning is best for romance. If there's a commitment to be made, start discussing it early. It's also a good time to fantasize. You'll come up with all sorts of wonderful ideas. You don't have to put them all into effect yet. Later this week is probably better.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22-December 21) — You don't like people who pull strings to get what they want. Today, you might find yourself right in the midst of a swarm of them. All sorts of wheedling and dealing is going on. Someone you live with could even be trying to involve you. Pay attention.

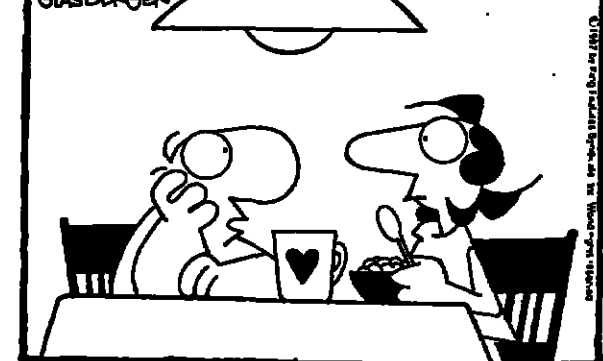
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22-January 19) — Changes you make now affect not only your future, but also your past. Old decisions don't have to run your life. Information revealed this evening could shed new light on an old situation. It might not have been your fault after all. Be willing to set aside the guilt.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 20-February 18) — You're very intellectual, but today that may be not enough. Instinct prevails over logic. Maybe it wouldn't be so bad to have a little intuition going for you as well. At least you can practise. Do that by watching and listening rather than telling people what to do.

**PISCES:** (February 19-March 20) — By afternoon, you'll have to get practical again. This morning, let your fantasies run wild. You could have a fabulous conversation right around lunchtime. Get together with dear friends and make schemes for the future. Some of them might actually be doable, and one could lead to a fabulous romantic relationship.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WICTE

HYNIS

KOPHOU

FLOUBE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers: yesterday's Jumbles: ADMIT HAREM BUOYED ENOUGH Answer: What the animal rights group did to the hunters — HOUNDED THEM)

Busine

Daily

A review

Committee

obligator

Real Estate

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## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Committee reconsidering premiums for obligatory third party insurance

**\*\*A TRIPARTITE committee is currently reviewing the insurance premiums charged for the obligatory third party category and the limit of responsibilities to insurance companies, the director of the Insurance Control Department at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply told a press meeting.** The director, Sami Fakhouri, said the new third party insurance premiums will be suitable for both the insurance companies and the insured.

Mr. Fakhouri said a study conducted by authorised auditors has shown that insurance companies lose about JD1.6 million annually as a result of the obligatory third party insurance. "As such, the premiums had to be reconsidered and the system of this category of insurance had to be amended," the director said.

The committee is headed by the secretary general of the ministry and includes the insurance controller and representatives from the insurance federation and the traffic department.

Asked about the period given to insurance companies to adjust their capital base, Mr. Fakhouri said the period which ends on March 31, 1998 will not be extended. He called on the insurance companies to raise their capital to a minimum of JD2 million as required by the new regulations. A former 3-year period

that was given for the insurance companies to adjust to the higher capital expired at the beginning of this month.

"We have 26 insurance companies at present but 13 of them have not yet adjusted their situation. Two companies are in the process of merging and two others are considering a merger," he indicated pointing out that many companies have taken the necessary general assembly decision to proceed with the capital increase. However, Mr. Fakhouri stressed the importance of the merger option to improve the competitiveness of the companies in the local market.

Mr. Fakhouri said the reason behind requesting a higher capital is to create companies with high financial capabilities which can meet obligations in addition to create economic units capable of competing with foreign companies. Such a competition, he added, could be expected in light of the government decision which opened the market for a 100 per cent foreign equity in many economic sectors, including the insurance.

He said that no foreign company have yet requested to operate in the Kingdom and noted that the total insurance premiums in the Jordanian market does not exceed JD88 million (Al Ra'i).

### Kuwait draws up plans for foreigners to hold shares

**KUWAIT CITY (AFP) —** Kuwait is drawing up plans which could open the way for foreigners from outside Arab Gulf states to invest directly in local shares, officials have said.

"There is a task force, established a few months ago, to review and prepare this new law," which will allow foreigners to invest "directly" in Kuwaiti shares, said Ali Rashid Al Bader, managing director of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA).

The task force, led by the commerce and industry ministry, is expected to put in place "the framework of a draft law in the next few weeks," the head of KIA, which manages Kuwait's overseas assets, told AFP.

At present, stocks can only be held by Kuwaitis and citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which groups Kuwait with Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Other foreign investors are only allowed to hold shares in one listed mutual fund and another two listed

funds specialised in real estate.

Two more equity funds, which will also be open to foreign investors, are expected to be launched "within the next month or two," Mr. Bader said.

According to the newspaper Al Qabas, the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) has already drawn up proposals to allow foreign investors to directly own shares.

The report said the bourse proposals included allowing foreigners to own up to 49 per cent in listed companies, the same limit imposed on unlisted firms, although banks and financial institutions should be excluded to foreigners.

Sources close to the plans said that limits on which companies non-GCC foreigners can invest in or the percentage of foreign ownership have yet to be decided.

Analysts said allowing foreigners into the market will encourage more professionalism and transparency on a bourse where speculation is often the main driving force.

### Foreign investors' purchases of shares rise by JD3.2 million

**AMMAN (Petra) —** Securities Commission President Michel Mario revealed Sunday that the total foreign purchases of securities increased by JD3.2 million during October 1997.

Dr. Mario added that foreign purchases amounted to JD 5.4 million last month compared to JD2.2 million during the same month of 1996.

He said that the total selling transactions by foreigners shot up last month to JD4.9 million compared to JD1.6 million for the same period last year.

Dr. Mario noted that the net position of foreign investments last month was JD500,000 compared to JD600,000 for October 1996.

Dr. Mario pointed that the

accumulative amount of purchase orders by foreign investors since the beginning of this year and until the end of October registered JD83.2 million while the selling orders of foreign investors for the same period were JD28.7 million, resulting in JD54.5 million as net position for the foreign investment.

### Russia lets foreigners own oil firms

**MOSCOW (R) —** Russian President Boris Yeltsin, removing a major restriction on the energy sector, has signed a decree allowing foreigners to own 100 per cent stakes in Russian oil companies, a senior cabinet official has said.

Fuel and Energy Minister Boris Nemtsov, the liberal reformer who is also first deputy prime minister, told Reuters the decree removed all restrictions on outside ownership of oil firms.

Previously, foreigners had been limited to 15 per cent stakes, although a few exceptions had been made.

The decree means that Moscow's reforms of the world's third largest oil-producing country are intensifying.

Output over the first nine months rose one per cent year-on-year to 5.93 million barrels per day, or bpd — the first increase in around a decade of steep falls.

Peak output was 11.4 million bpd in 1987 but has nearly halved since then, and oil companies now need serious investment to turn themselves around.

Russian oil companies account for the bulk of the domestic stock market's capitalisation. But they require billions of dollars in investment to prosper.

Most companies have

already been sold off, but some major stakes and firms, like Rosneft and the Eastern Oil Company, are still to be sold.

Foreign companies already own some stakes in Russian oil firms. The Atlantic Richfield Co (ARCO) of the United States has around eight per cent in Lukoil, which is Russia's and one of the world's largest oil firms.

Foreign oil companies plan around \$70 billion in investment in Russian oil projects if the government and parliament pass the necessary legislation.

### Westinghouse to cut 2,000 jobs in restructuring drive

**PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (AFP) —** Westinghouse Electric has said it would cut 2,000 jobs and take a \$125 million charge in the fourth quarter as it prepares to spin off its industrial businesses.

The company also warned that earnings shortfalls in its power generation and energy systems units could reduce third-quarter earnings by about \$50 million.

If the trend continues, it added, fourth-quarter results could also be affected.

The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the separation of the company's industrial businesses, which will be named Westinghouse Electric Corporation (WELCO), will qualify as a tax-free spin-off to Westinghouse and its shareholders, the firm said.

The separation is expected to occur by the end of 1997.

In preparation for the transaction, it said it would undertake a restructuring plan in the fourth quarter at its power businesses, which will mean a cut of 2,000 jobs from the new industrial company's headquarters operations in Pittsburgh.

In addition, a charge of \$125 million to cover staff reduction will be applied to fourth-quarter earnings.

About two-thirds of the job cuts will be in the power generation unit.

"Both power generation and energy systems are finalising their plans to more tightly focus their businesses around higher margin and stronger growth segments and to improve their cost competitiveness by reducing capacity through strategic outsourcing," Westinghouse said in a statement.

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 09/11/1997											
PART 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
346.000	245.000	ARAB BANK	15.0	1.23	2	60	19560	327.00	326.00	1.00	-
2.340	1.660	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	32	78000	140607	1.81	1.81	-	-
5.800	4.100	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	10.3	3.00	1	2000	10000	5.00	5.00	-	-
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	5.2	0.00	3	1350	3956	2.94	2.93	-	-
1.190	1.890	MID. EAST INV. BK.	72.3	9.17	4	12000	13500	1.10	1.10	-	-
2.620	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.5	5.97	54	31662	83668	2.62	2.65	-	-
5.200	4.600	THE HOUSING BK.	15.1	3.85	5	7200	36288	5.00	5.04	-	-
4.180	2.400	JOR. PHARM. BANK	11.9	0.00	33	17500	59150	3.32	3.35	-	-
1.050	1.740	JOR. GULF BANK	4.6	8.97	5	9700	7556	7.77	7.78	-	-
3.970	3.450	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	19.8	0.00	3	1400	5684	3.97	4.12	-	-
4.050	3.430	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.7	3.31	17	7537	27191	3.55	3.62	-	-
1.900	1.870	BEST AL-WAL (BESTWA)	8	16.85	2	1000	893	9.31	8.89	-	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 235.06 %CHG: -0.09 % 161 - 169489 - 407961											
2.020	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.4	7.89	1	100	190	1.95	1.90	-	-
2.200	1.820	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	8.9	4.35	6	5737	12657	2.20	2.30	-	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 116.87 %CHG: +0.22 % 7 5837 12847											
2.050	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.32	8	5525	10437	1.89	1.88	-	-
4.030	1.320	JORD. TELE. CTRY	19.4	3.54	1	5550	18038	3.33	3.25	-	-
3.900	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.6	0.00	3	1350	4988	3.68	3.68	-	-
1.100	1.900	ZARKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	1	500	485	9.3	9.3	-	-
2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.2	6.40	5	2200	3784	1.74	1.72	-	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 109.82 %CHG: -0.15 % 18 15125 37711											
4.450	3.030	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	21.0	3.53	22	29435	91831	3.12	3.12	-	-
7.050	5.570	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.9	3.13	2	6350	40640	6.33	6.40	-	-
11.160	9.070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.6	8.15	6	883	9505	10.87	10.90	-	-
1.110	1.050	WOLLEN INDUSTRIES	9.4	0.00	2	250	272	1.06	1.09	-	-
3.260	1.330	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	9	0.00	7	1052	1503	1.40	1.45	-	-
4.700	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.6	4.76	16	3723	15613	4.20	4.20	-	-
2.800	2.150	JORDAN DAIRY	17.4	0.00	1	550	1540	2.76	2.80	-	-
1.200	1.020	JOR. PAPER MANFCT.	14.6	6.78	3	950	1121	1.16	1.18	-	-
690	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.9	0.00	11	4350	2046	4.7	4.7	-	-
1.330	700	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	1	300	210	70	70	-	-
770	510	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	2	750	413	55	55	-	-
1.200	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	4	5450	2834	52	52	-	-
920	530	JOR. ROCKWOOL INDS.	9	0.00	3	1250	750	62	60	-	-
890	530	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	16.5	5.43	17	30050	38280	1.28	1.29	-	-
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.5	2.22	21	55300	65280	1.18	1.19	-	-
1.580	1.080	UNIV. WOOD. INDS.	11.0	12.20	1	4600	3775	84	82	-	-
1.410	820	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	15.9	0.00	8	5400	4708	87	87	-	-
1.070	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	50.3	0.00	4	1376	1972	1.44	1.43	-	-
2.090	1.340	EL. - SAY REIDY KEAR	6.6	0.00	5	8350	10020	1.20	1.20	-	-
1.330	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	33.9	6.67	10	55150	41363	76	75	-	-
820	590	JORDAN STEEL	7.1	17.24	18	13550	7782	58	58	-	-
840	570	MID. EAST COMPLEX								-	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 117.17 %CHG: +0.51 % 181 232945 343940											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 170.56 %CHG: +0.13 % 367 423366 802460											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 09/11/1997											
800	660	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	10	9655	2434	76	75	-	-
570	360	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	7	16800	6720	40	40	-	-
950	720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	3.5	0.00	2	602	488	92	92	-	-
36.100	29.000	JOR. TOURIST TRAV. CO	38.0	0.00	2	1500	19800	36.00	36.00	-	-
140	130	ARAB TRVL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	1	150	495	34	33	-	-
640	350	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	1	150	53	35	35	-	-
750	400	NATL. MULT. ENG. MANICO	9	0.00	22	20750	8300	40	40	-	-
540	300	HAYZAK DIES & MOLDERS	9	0.00	3	2000	760	39	39	-	-
660	580	MIDEAST PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	2	200	76	64	63	-	-
1.400	860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	5	1450	1426	1.21	1.24	-	-
730	550	RASHI PHARM.	9	0.00	4	3850	2349	62	61	-	-
820	590	NATL. POULTRY	9	0.00	4	1400	854	62	61	-	-
1.050	720	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	49.7	0.00	7	6848	7051	1.03	1.03	-	-
GRAND TOTAL 70 65756 50784											

↑ : New 12 months high  
↓ : New 12 months low  
N : Listed during the past 12 months  
P : P/E ratio is 100 or more  
g : Negative P/E  
E : Earnings is zero or N/A for the most recent year

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# Netanyahu shrugs off Israel's biggest anti-government rally

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office shrugged off on Sunday the biggest anti-government demonstration in Israel's history, turning a deaf ear to calls for an easing of his hard line in dealing with the Palestinians.

More than 200,000 people participated in the rally Saturday night in Tel Aviv marking the second anniversary of the assassination of Labour prime minister Yitzhak Rabin by a right-wing Jewish radical opposed to the peace process.

While advertised as a memorial rally for Rabin, the gathering was widely seen as a mass protest against Netanyahu's policies which have led to deadlock in the peace process with the Palestinians launched by the late Labour leader four years ago.

But Mr. Netanyahu's top media advisor, David Bar-Ilan, declared Sunday that there were no political lessons to be drawn from the event.

"The demonstrators were

there to mourn for Rabin and their number was unprecedented," Bar-Ilan told Agence France Presse.

"But this has nothing to do with the policy options concerning the peace process. The people have already spoken on this by electing Netanyahu," he said.

Mr. Bar-Ilan's view contrasted with the speeches given Saturday night by a string of opposition figures who lashed out at the government led by Mr. Netanyahu's Likud party for derailing peace negotiations with the Palestinians which have been in crisis since early this year.

"The Likud promised before the elections that it would continue the Oslo peace process. Today we see that they, who want to smash the peace, will end up smashing themselves and that peace will win," said Shimon Peres, who led the Labour government after Rabin's slaying.

Rabin's widow, Leah, said Saturday's demonstration marked "a turning point and a

disavowal of this government and proves that Israelis are still massively attached to the hope for peace and a better future."

And Ehud Barak, the current Labour chief who is leading Mr. Netanyahu in opinion polls, pledged to "return the helm of state" to the left and revive the peace process.

The Israeli media also judged Saturday's event as the biggest mass protest demonstration in Israel's 50-year history and said it could provide a big boost to the Labour Party's so-far ineffective efforts to unseat Mr. Netanyahu.

"It was not the two years since Rabin's death which brought such a huge mass to the rally but rather the 17 months of Netanyahu's administration," said the Maariv newspaper.

"What was until now a defeated, depressed camp which didn't know its own strength received last night a major infusion of self-confidence, and the political fallout will be felt for some

time," it said.

"It would be wise for Netanyahu to understand that what happened last night did not occur on the moon, and that nothing like it has occurred before to any prime minister in Israel's history," it said.

But Mr. Bar-Ilan said he was "skeptical" that the Labour Party could follow up on Saturday's turnout to threaten the current government.

"I doubt that [it] could bring together that many demonstrators on any other theme than Rabin's murder," he said.

Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts have been deadlocked since March over Mr. Netanyahu's policy of expanding Jewish settlements in disputed areas and his refusal to carry out further promised troop withdrawals from the West Bank.

Four days of high-level, U.S.-brokered negotiations between the two sides in Washington last week failed to make any progress on these core issues.



HOLY SITE DEDICATED: Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodoros makes the sign of the cross, on Sunday, above the holy stone where the Virgin Mary is believed to have rested on her way to give birth to Jesus in nearby Bethlehem (AFP photo) (See story on page 2)

## Netanyahu fails to nail down Clinton summit

### Levy rethinking attending MENA

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads to the United States next week without a plan to meet President Bill Clinton in an apparent sign that peace talks with the Palestinians are going nowhere fast.

"For the time being no such meeting has been set," Mr. Netanyahu's office said after issuing a statement announcing he would visit Britain from Wednesday until Sunday before flying to the United States to meet Jewish groups.

An Israeli official had said Mr. Clinton was linking a meeting to progress in peace talks.

U.S. presidents routinely meet Israeli leaders on such trips. Israel receives \$3 billion a year in U.S. aid, more than any other country.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said he hoped a meeting of Mr. Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in London Friday might yet clear the way for Mr. Clinton meeting.

Ms. Albright wants to raise with Mr. Netanyahu — and with President Yasser Arafat at a separate meeting in Switzerland Saturday — con-

tentious issues left unresolved by a new round of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks around Washington.

The talks have been in crisis since Mr. Netanyahu began work on a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem eight months ago.

Mr. Levy was in Washington to take part in the four days of Israeli-Palestinian National Authority talks last week and rejected Mr. Arafat's assertion on Saturday that they achieved nothing.

"There is no breakdown," Mr. Levy told Israel Radio.

Clouding the talks was not only longstanding Palestinian mistrust of the right-wing Netanyahu but also their doubts over whether Mr. Levy, widely viewed as a moderate, had a mandate to make deals.

In a further sign of difficulties in U.S. Middle East peacemaking, Mr. Levy said it might be pointless for him to attend a U.S.-backed economic conference in the Gulf next week which Arab participants are threatening to boycott.

"I have yet to determine a stance. We are examining whether it has a chance from a political aspect," Mr. Levy

said when asked if he would head Israel's delegation to the three-day meeting in the Qatari capital Doha starting next Sunday.

"There is no point travelling to Doha — with all of its importance — just to be present there," Mr. Levy told Israel Radio.

The United States said last week it aimed to coax Arab states to attend the conference aimed at integrating Israel into the region. A reluctant majority, including U.S. allies Egypt and Saudi Arabia, oppose Israeli policy on peacemaking.

Most Arab states view Mr. Netanyahu as the key obstacle to Arab-Israeli peace talks. Some have linked their attendance and level of participation to progress in peacemaking.

Officials expect 900 business executives from around the world to attend the fourth annual conference along with Ms. Albright and other officials.

"Israel will definitely take part and the delegation will be economic. As for political meetings, we will check it and this week determine our position," Mr. Levy said.

## Paris bombs in 1995 were work of Algerian secret service

LONDON (AFP) — Bomb attacks that killed eight people in Paris in 1995 were the work of the Algerian secret service, according to a press report Sunday that also claimed Algeria was helping Iraq produce weapons of mass destruction.

The Observer quoted an Algerian asylum-seeker in Britain — who claimed he was a former agent in Algeria's secret service — as saying the Paris bombs were part of a black propaganda war aimed at galvanising French public opinion against Islamist militants. The man, named only as Mr. Yussouf, told the paper that the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) — on whom both the Paris bombs and frequent massacres in Algeria have been blamed — was "a pure product of [the Algerian] secret service."

He also said the Algerian authorities were holding material for Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological warfare programme.

Mr. Yussouf said Algerian intelligence agents routinely bribed European police, journalists and members of parliament.

And he claimed to have personally delivered a suitcase containing \$90,000 to a former French member of parliament "with strong links to the French intelligence services."

The Observer said the unnamed French deputy, who lost his seat at this year's general election, was a noted apologist for the Algerian and Iraqi regimes.

Mr. Yussouf added that the killings of many foreigners in Algeria by the secret police and not by Islamist extremists.

## Dispute continues over Israeli role in alleged Onassis kidnap operation

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The father of the 12-year-old heiress to the Onassis shipping fortune lashed out in an interview Sunday at the refusal by Israeli police to pursue a group of former army officers accused of plotting to kidnap his daughter.

Thierry Roussel, father of Athina Roussel, the granddaughter of the late Greek

billionaire Aristotle Onassis, told the Yediot Aharonot newspaper that his family was living "in perpetual fear" since learning of the alleged kidnap plot early this year from Swiss police.

He criticised an Israeli police decision last week rejecting Swiss police charges that a group of former Israeli army and intelligence officers were involved in the affair.

"I'm surprised the Israeli police is disputing the facts of the Swiss police," he said.

"Maybe this is because former Israeli officers and secret agents are involved... and this could be an Israeli strategy to help these people," he was quoted as saying.

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By Suleiman Al Khalidi  
Reuter

AMMAN — Lack of united opposition in the new Parliament should permit the government to speed up unpopular economic policies and cement its troubled peace with Israel, analysts and officials said on Sunday.

Pro-government candidates strengthened their grip on Parliament after elections last Tuesday that were boycotted by an Islamist-led opposition.

## Lack of united opposition in new Parliament eases path for economic programme

The pro-government forces secured at least two thirds of the 80 seats and a handful of independents won.

Analysts said the deputies were expected to form a largely toothless assembly and would not mount any serious challenge to further steps towards politically sensitive structural reforms directed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The assembly's composition in principle suggests the government will face an easier task to pass important laws, especially since the coming phase will bring decisive economic laws," said Taher Hikmat, a prominent senator and ex-minister.

The absence of an organised Islamist-dominated opposi-

tion is expected to help the government handle with ease a more cooperative assembly than the two previous bodies Jordan has had since it revived parliamentary elections in 1989, they said.

While the opposition failed to block unpopular laws such as the 1994 peace treaty with Israel because of a comfortable government majority, their protests and delaying tactics were a constant headache which embarrassed the government and gave a wider platform for dissent.

"The government will be more relaxed now. In the past its policies were passed nonetheless, but with more fuss and discomfort than is expected now," said Mr. Hikmat.

Analysts say a muted opposition will give breathing space for the government to forge ahead politically sensitive structural reforms despite mounting frustrations over the lack of tangible benefits of the peace treaty with Israel.

This comes at a time when the troubled Middle East peace process has cast its shadow over investor sentiment by damaging confidence and bringing a slowdown in business activity.

The bitter pill of reforms is the only choice Jordan has if it wants to integrate with the global economy to spur growth and generate jobs for an army of unemployed now conservatively put at 18 per cent of its 4.6 million population, they said.

Officials privately say that daunting tasks ahead include taking decisive action to reduce government spending on a bloated public sector, and downsizing a welfare state which Jordan can no longer sustain at present foreign aid levels.

Ali Abul Ragheb, a businessman and a newly elected deputy and former minister who oversaw Jordan's overhauled investment laws and laid the foundations of trade ties with Israel, said a stepped-up effort to liberalise the economy was crucial.

"The initial reforms succeeded in improving the fiscal state of the treasury and monetary issues but did not succeed in the broader economic and social issues," Mr. Abul

Ragheb said.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said the coming government agenda must broaden a first batch of economic reforms enacted in 1994-1995 to attract investments needed to generate jobs and spur growth.

These include intellectual property rights, developing the local capital markets, further trade liberalisation, privatisation and restructuring of state assets.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said the new parliamentary phase would have to address a "social adjustment programme in parallel with the economic reforms," echoing widespread criticism that IMF-directed reforms which brought macro-economic stability after a severe economic

crisis in 1989 neglected the social dimension.

The government will be less constrained by the shape of the new Parliament to push ahead its agenda to forge solid economic ties with Israel, officials privately say.

While not a panacea, it would be a major economic boost by reducing the political pressure of soaring unemployment in the absence of substantial capital inflows, officials say.

Jordan's economy would directly feel the spin-off effect once Israel eased its monopoly on the lucrative West Bank \$2.4 billion-plus annual market, which the Kingdom considers a natural market due to its close links with Palestinians, they say.

## Spice Girls give their manager the boot

LONDON (AFP) — The five-girl British pop phenomenon the Spice Girls have sacked the manager who took them to fame and fortune, a report said, Gen Halliwell.

"Ginger Spice" — was said by the Sun newspaper to have orchestrated the split with Simon Fuller in what a "source" in the paper called "the ultimate Girl Power move."

Fuller, 36, was hired by the group after they split from the managers who originally formed them. Since he began managing the group, the five Spice Girls have made an estimated 14.5 million pounds each.

## Travolta opposes an anti-Scientologist TV documentary

LONDON (AFP) — American actor John Travolta, star of the films "Pulp Fiction" and "Saturday Night Fever," has reportedly written to a British TV station asking it not to show a documentary on the Church of Scientology founder. The Independent newspaper on Sunday said Travolta, a committed Scientologist, accused Channel 4 of being prepared to slander him and all the members of the organisation. He reportedly claimed the programme — said to accuse the church's founder, L. Ron Hubbard, of being a fraud — would incite hatred of the sect, as had been happening in Germany where authorities are suppressing its activities.

## Effenberg obscenity inspires artist

BONN (R) — Steffen Effenberg's memorable obscene gesture has become a work of art. Effenberg, remembered for being kicked out of the German squad after raising his middle finger to the crowd at the 1994 World Cup finals, will be able to admire himself if he visits an exhibition entitled "Crossways, artists see football" to open on Monday in Leverkusen.

The current Borussia Moenchengladbach captain, whose international career ended after the incident during Germany's 3-2 victory over South Korea in Dallas, has inspired German artist Gisbert Mueller.

## Activists rage as Chinese park stages horse fights

HONG KONG (AFP) — A Chinese theme-park is staging vicious fights between horses in a bid to draw in the crowds, outraging animal rights activists in Hong Kong, a report said here Sunday.

Audiences at the Shenzhen Safari Park laugh as two stallions rear up and kick and bite each other during the five-minute bouts, the Sunday Morning Post said.

"They did not know how to fight but we have trainers to train them," a duty manager was quoted as saying at the park, which hit the headlines here last year when visitors were invited to throw live chickens into a tiger compound and watch the birds be torn apart.

## Cheerleader sues school, says partners were not very 'petite'

CHICAGO (R) — A former cheerleader has sued his university over back injuries that he says were caused by lifting heavy female partners during stunts, the Chicago Sun-Times reported, Douglas O'Reilly, 23, sued Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, saying he fractured his back while practising stunts in April, 1996, the daily said.

His two partners were "not your average, tiny, petite cheerleaders," O'Reilly was quoted as saying.

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